



"Your Hometown Newspaper"

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September 9, 1999

Agawam Schools Are Now In Session...





IN LEFT PHOTO: Marc Colin looks pleased after a half-day of kindergarten at Robinson Park School as his mom smiles behind him on the first day of the 1999-2000 school year (Thursday, September 2nd). IN RIGHT PHOTO: Kindergarten student Roberta Taylor seems to be enjoying her first day of school. She attends Robinson Park School. (See related photos in "Education.") Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.

Town Council Approves Tax Cut

by Kathy Cassanelli News Editor

After winning the support of only one councilor on a motion to table a resolution that would have the effect of cutting property taxes for residential ına commercial pr erty owners, Town Councilor Gina Letellier cast the sole vote against the proposal sent to the council last Thursday by Mayor Christopher C. Johnson.

Johnson proposed applying \$850,000 in excess revenue generated by the Berkshire Power plant to the tax levy, resulting in a significant tax cut for residential and commercial property owners in Agawam.

In a memorandum sent to the council, Johnson said the reduction in the tax rates he is proposing for the council's approval will lower the average single family tax bill by about \$75 to \$100 for this fiscal year. In 1998, Agawam also had the lowest average single family tax bill and the slowest growth trend over a five-year period as compared to East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, and West Springfield.

In the memo, Johnson writes, "Please note that the proposed FY2000 tax rates are significantly less than the FY1999 tax rates (\$.84 per thousand less for residential and \$.62 per thousand less for commercial/industrial) due to the application of approximately \$850,000 of excess new growth generated by the Berkshire Power project to the tax rates. With the reduction in the tax rates, Agawam has the lowest tax burden of any major community in Hampden County."

SEE TAX CUT - Page 2...

Saved Lives At Riverside On August 7th...

Three APD Officers Commended For Actions At Accident Scene

by Kathy Cassanelli **News Editor**

Three Agawam patrolmen on duty during an ac-shire, Gretzinger said cident at the Blizzard River ride at Riverside Park that sent eight people to area hospitals have received commendations for their actions on the night of August 7th, according to Police Lt. Steven Draghetti. All the victims survived the accident, although three were unconscious when the police officers arrived on the scene within minutes of the accident.

Prior to the ambulances reaching the scene of the accident, Officer Stanley Chmielewski performed resuscitation and was able to revive four year-old Jonathan Pascone of Dayville, CT; Officer Eric Camerlin performed CPR on the child's father, John Pascone, 32; and Officer John Kunasek, responding to reports that a nine yearold child was trapped under an overturned boat, entered the water to assist in freeing the victims.

The commendations came as a result of an accident that is still under investigation by Riverside Park and the State Department of Public Safety.

Riverside Park Spokesman Jerry Gretzinger said the company expects to release a report from the expert consultants Riverside hired to look into the accident by the end of the week. The report is being prepared by the engineering consulting firms, ATA and Cotter & Associates, both experts in the field of amusement rides and the Blizzard River manufacturer, O.D. Hopkins of New Hamp-

Last week, the Agawam Police Department released its report of the accident after determining the incident was not a result of a criminal act. 'Our participation in the investigation has end-

ed," Draghetti said.

A copy of the police report, written by Draghetti, who was the officer in charge of the police detail when the accident occurred, has been sent to the Department of Public Safety for use in its investigation by state engineers and the state building inspector.

According to Draghetti's report, based on the statements given to the police by victims, park employees, and park patrons, a boat on the simulated white water rafting ride overturned while carrying eight passengers, the full capacity for the ride. At the time of the accident, the six adults and two children were strapped into the boat, leaving them trapped underwater while the police and park employees worked to free them.

Sent to Baystate Medical Center with apparently minor injuries, 32 year-old Ernest Messier of Coventry, Rhode Island, reported boarding the boat with his wife, Susan, 25, along with the Pascone family, John, Jonathan, Kimberly, 32, and Angela, 9. Gerald Pescaro, 31, and Kimberly

SEE RIVERSIDE - Page 2...

RIVERSIDE - from Page 1...

Pescaro, 27, both of Shrewsbury, MA, were added to the boatload of friends to bring the boat up to its full capacity of eight riders.

In his account of the accident, Messier said the boat got stuck after going a short distance and he told a Riverside employee to let him change places with one of the Pascone children to better distribute the weight of the riders. But, Messier said he was told to stay seated and other employees came and pushed the boat free. Both Messier and Kimberly Pascone said their families had ridden the Blizzard River earlier in the day, but on their evening ride, the water was much rougher and wilder with more water splashing into the

About 200 feet from the end of the ride as the boat approached the final rapids, Messier said they entered the rapids with the weighted side of the boat and it flipped over.

Messier, Mrs. Pascone, and Gerald Pescaro managed to free themselves and the two men returned to the boat to help rescue the other trapped people. Most seriously injured in the accident were John Pascone, his son, Jonathan, and Susan Messier, who were all unconscious when freed from the overturned boat. The Pescaros were taken to Mercy Hospital; all the remaining victims were taken to Baystate Medical Center. Some were treated and released; others recovered after lengthy hospital stays.

A park employee reported an incident earlier in the week when a boat had flipped in the same location during a pre-opening safety check; another park employee reported problems were developing on the ride, such as the computer giving error messages and that the ride stopped itself without the operator.

Other employees did not notice any problems with the ride and two employees reported the patrons were rocking the boat and continued to rock the boat after being asked to stop.

Gretzinger said park officials would not comment on the incident until their consultants finished their report.

TAX CUT - from Page 1...

With Tuesday night's vote, the council agreed to set the residential tax factor, which determines the share of the tax burden shifted from the residential to the commercial class, at half of the

maximum shift allowed by the Department of Revenue (DOR) as it has for the past 10 years.

With the shift of 50 percent of the maximum allowed by the DOR, Johnson estimated a drop in the residential tax rate from \$15.89 to \$15.05 and a drop in the commercial/industrial tax rate from

\$21.49 to \$20.87.
Council President Donald Rheault said he believes adopting the tax factor as recommended

by the Mayor is appropriate.

"After calling the Department of Revenue and meeting with the Mayor, the treasurer, and the assessor, and doing a little more in-depth research, I believe it's in the best interest of

Agawam to adopt the tax factor," Rheault said.

Making a motion to table the resolution until the Mayor can attend a council meeting to answer the councilors' concerns over the wisdom of cut-ting taxes while there are so many projects in need of funding, Ms. Letellier said, "To see this as a tax cut is short-sighted and premature and I think we're short-changing ourselves. The Mayor put this before us at the last minute and that is not acceptable to me.

But, Assessor Chet Nicora said a tabling motion would likely result in the tax bills being sent out late and suggested the council contact him earlier in the process next year if they feel they want to change their 10-year policy of going with a tax factor that is half what the state allows.

Town In Sound Financial Shape
"The town is in better financial shape than ever
before," Nicora said. "The tax cut doesn't take into account the supplemental budget of \$850,000. We were able to do a lot of things this year that we haven't been able to do in the past.

Councilor Dennis Perry was the only councilor to agree to the tabling motion and the resolution went to the full council for a vote. Voting against the resolution to set the residential tax factor at

50 percent of the allowed maximum shift of the tax burden from the residential to the commercial class was Ms. Letellier. In favor were Council President Donald M. Rheault, Council Vice-President Robert Magovern, and Councilors Nancy Thompson, Gary Geiger, Dennis Perry, Edward Caba, Robert Young, and George Bitzas. Councilors John Negrucci and Jill Simpson were absent due to illness.

sent due to illness.

Along with several other councilors, Ms.
Letellier raised concern over cutting the average single family tax bill by an estimated \$100, noting, "There are 100 things that the town needs."
Among the list of projects several councilors pointed out as needing funding were street lights, sidewalks, a DPW garage, and expansion projects at the library and the Senior Center.

Councilor Nancy Thompson pointed out that many of the projects cited by councilors as needing funding were already included in the capital improvement budget approved by the

capital improvement budget approved by the council earlier this summer.

"It's not very often we, as elected officials, get to vote to cut taxes. This is a nice thing we can authorize for the community," Ms. Thompson

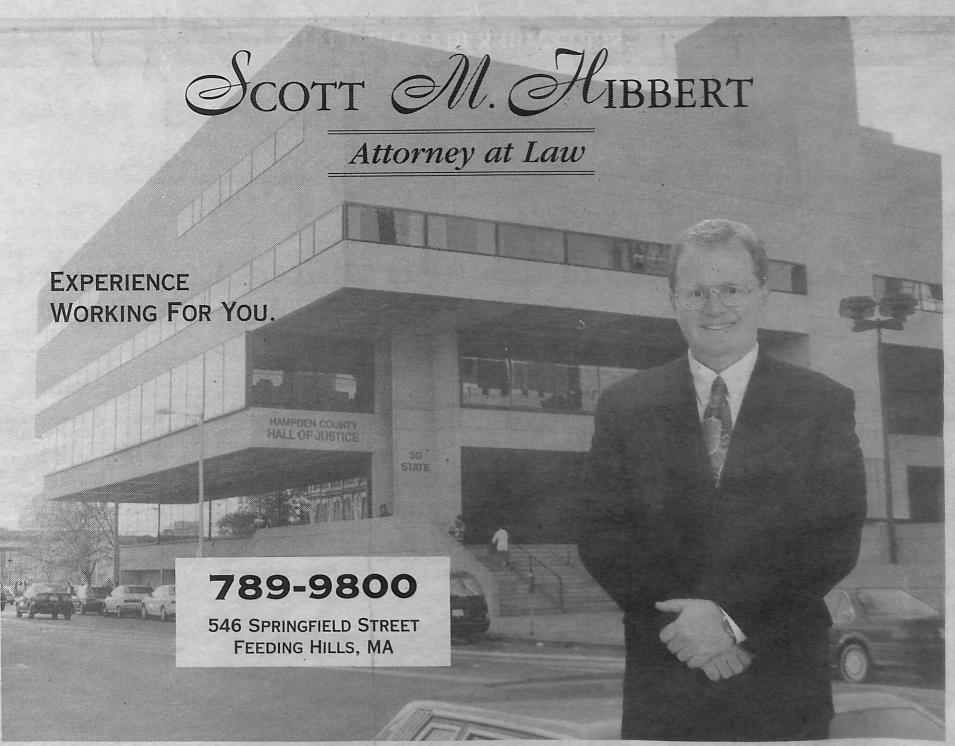
Councilor Gary Geiger said he thinks the tax cut looks good on paper, but the average homeowner will pay about the same amount of taxes if they keep the appearance of their property up and the valuations rise.

Councilors Magovern and Caba agreed with Ms. Letellier's complaints about receiving the tax factor information too late for the council to have a good discussion of the issues.

"I believe this is all smoke and mirrors and the problems we have need to be addressed,

Magovern said. Councilor Bitzas also pointed out that the funds for capital improvement projects for the Public Library and the Senior Center were in the capital improvement budget. "I'm happy to see this tax cut and we have been assured by the administration that this is not going to be at the expense of providing services," Bitzas said. "We pay enough taxes already.'

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you ... AAN!!!



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Mayoral Candidate Cohen Can Brighten Town's Future

I am writing to let the people of Agawam know about a candidate for mayor named Richard Cohen. He is an upstanding citizen and he is fair. Agawam needs new changes and a young at-

After hearing Richard Cohen speak his issues on education, the young and the old, Park and Recreation, and DPW issues, I think that the town of Agawam can only have a brighter future with candidate Richard Cohen as mayor.

Eric Carr Agawam

Bonavita Will Dedicate Himself To Good Government

To The Editor:

The deadline for voter registration for the upcoming mayoral primary election is September 15th and October 13th for the general election.

As citizens of Agawam, we must ensure that those of us that are not registered become so and that all able voters cast their ballots in the general election.

For those of us who will be unable to participate, absentee ballots may be obtained at the Clerk's Office. We have the opportunity to be involved in the future of Agawam through our selection of a new mayor and composition of a council of dedicated representatives of the community.

Review the field of candidates, determine those you feel are qualified to work in the best interest of our city, and vote. You may cast a vote for one choice or up to 11 choices for City Council, my choice and my recommendation is Anthony Bonavita for Council.

Anthony is experienced in the law and in the government of Agawam. He is a member of our community and a family man who recognizes the concerns of the community and will dedicate himself to good government.

Avoid complacency, this is not just a local election, but is our possibility to shape the future where we live. You may register at the Clerk's Office in Town Hall daily Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mark McCormick Feeding Hills

Voters Should Be Thinking About The Future Of Agawam

To The Editor:

Webster defines debate as: "I. Noun, discussion,

or 2. verb, argue; discuss.

We should wonder about the merits of a "debate" held in the interest of "getting to know" candidates for the upcoming election. Is the quickest thinker, or the best orator, or the candidate that draws the easiest (for that particular person) question going to be at an advantage? Will the person that interprets an answer unintentionally repeat their interpretation in a misleading

It might be a more positive procedure to have all of the candidates offer their intended programs/solutions to a list of questions/problems compiled by the voters and students of this city. In this way, each candidate could have time to think through his or her answers and respond in writing in a more sincere way than if he or she is under pressure from the press and other candidates for an "instant" answer.

Some would say this process would "prove the candidates under pressure." But what would it prove and how long would it be before any answers during a debate were either forgotten or misquoted? If all of the candidates answered all the same questions concerning schools, youth issues, and senior services, along with other important "people issues," especially communications problems between teenagers and parents, teachers and the general population, the voters would be able to compare apples with apples. This would help cut down expenses for the candidates as well as keep a lot of sign carriers in out of the cold before and during election. It would also eliminate (favors).

These, and any other problems brought forward

by the citizens of Agawam (old as well as young) should be the concern of the Mayor and the City Council. Other day-to-day running of our city could be streamlined by good, cost-conscious department heads. All the Mayor and councilors would have to do would be review any recommendations made by these very capable department heads who, I am sure, have the city's interest at heart.

This would eliminate the long and non-productive council meetings that have been evident in the past. If the Council and the Mayor's office are not content with the recommendations of each department, they should strive for open communications on every level, everyone should be heard without fear of reproof. If anyone is not doing his or her job, they should be replaced.

I am taking this opportunity to suggest that every voter and student in this great little city of ours think about the future. What will happen to all of us when we get old and, most important, how do we open lines of communication with our teenagers? Now is the time to make your suggestions known to the candidates of your choice. It is also time to demand fair solutions. This is the American way.

I also suggest that every business in town contact the school board with offers for co-op programs to help our high school students learn trades right here at home. This would guarantee a continuing workforce for our new industrial park as well as help many families who now feel the

only way their child can get ahead in life is with a college education that they cannot afford.

Please, don't just complain about politics, spend some time thinking positively and let your ideas/solutions be known for consideration.

Sincerely, Charlie Granger Feeding Hills

It Is Time For Berkshire Power To Now "PAY THE RENT"

To The Editor:

I wish to comment on last week's front page article in *The Agawam Advertiser*" - Tax Revenue From Berkshire Power Estimated to Lower Average Homeowners' Tax Bill By \$100."

Personally, because of where I live, I would prefer not to have the Power Plant, but it's here and now I want to SHARE with everyone in our community this \$100 per homeowner.

This is front page news, but it says "tax revenue," not in-lieu of tax revenue.

Let's take a look at the history of this matter. Inlieu-of-taxes would have meant about \$20 per homeowner as opposed to the \$100 - yet nowhere in this newspaper article does it mention about how we got real taxes from Berkshire Power instead of the in-lieu-of-tax agreement that Berkshire Power proposed and that the Mayor and certain city councilors supported.

No one gave any recognition to those citizens in our community who refused to accept Berkshire Power's "HUSH MONEY" and con-tinued to tell the truth about Berkshire Power and the real reason for their in-lieu-of-tax proposal.

If you remember, Ken Roberts from Berkshire Power told this community that precedent was set and that Berkshire Power could seek and would be allowed "manufacturing tax status" and that because of this status, they would only hope to pay about \$200,000 per year in taxes. Berkshire Power postolated that this was not fair. So, in their generosity, they decided to offer an \$800,000 in-lieu-of-tax agreement for 40 years to the host

Myself, among a handful of other courageous citizens, told our community the whole truth. In order for Berkshire Power to get manufacturing tax status, they had to become a corporation, but their investors wanted to be an LLC.

I was telling the truth back then and I'm telling

the truth now. The truth is:
I want to put the \$100 per year for each homeowner in my pocket and I want to keep it for each and every year for as long as I live. However, Berkshire Power has other ideas.

Berkshire Power is going to take our communi-

ty to court again.

Surprised? You can bet your bottom dollar that in court, Berkshire Power is going to claim that they should only have to pay about \$800,000 a year in taxes, which was their original in-lieu-of-tax proposal rather than the \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million per year in real taxes.

If we don't fight then in court, they'll win again, only this time they'll beat every homeowner in our community and not just the handful of us that live

Court case record of Berkshire Power against

the Town of Agawam:

• Board of Appeals

• Sued CCBA and certain named citizens

Oil Storage

The Mayor says, "Rarely are towns fully sustained with a valuation of that size." I don't know that this statement is true. I have the names of other communities where power plants do pay such revenues and, in fact, more.

Two of the city councilors are mayoral candidates and the remainder of the City Council is

running for reelection.

If elected, they all better grow FANGS and be ready to bite when Berkshire Power attacks our

community again in court and attempts to take back our \$100 per year per homeowner. That money belongs to our community. Their

power plant is in our community. Don't let them embarrass our town again with this FINAL IN-SULT. They moved in. Now it's time for them to "PAY THE RENT."

Mike DelNegro Agawam

Our City Council Has No Choice But To Appeal Override

To The Editor:

As you and most residents have read, Dana Reed, the chief analyst for the Energy Facilities Siting Board, resigned after being their chief analyst since 1992. One of the major reasons for Mr. Reed's resignation was the way the EFSB deliberately and willfully upheld the wishes of Berkshire Power regarding the illegal oil storage tank they built in Agawam. Mr. Reed's letter describing his reasons for resigning is lengthy, so I will paraphrase by quoting the most important parts of the letter. Incidentally, Mr. Reed's letter was sent to the EFSB just prior to the Siting Board giving its final approval. We now know that the Siting Board ignored all of Mr. Reed's concerns.

In referring to the Siting Board staff's tentative approval of Berkshire Power's petition for an override of our City Council, Mr. Reed stated the "illegally constructed 500,000 gallon oil storage tank truly finalized my decision to leave the EFSB, and shattered any confidence that I ever had of the Agawam community (and perhaps others) being dealt with fairly in such matters.

The EFSB's chief analyst goes on to say "the petitioner (Berkshire Power), deliberately distorted said requirements under oath during testimony in this proceeding. Add to this dilemma the location of the fuel tank in fairly close proximity to L.V. Heliport's takeoff/landing pad, and the very real danger exists for the Board to set a disturbing and dangerous regulatory precedent in

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The Agawam Advertiser News

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LETTERS - from Page 4...

affirming such a position." Mr. Reed also goes on to say that "Although at least two parties filed Motions for Dismissal of BP's petition, both were ultimately denied, but not until relatively late in the process. In fact, I was not able to review our response to the motion, but on a cursory level, those filing the motions made a strong case for

Mr. Reed shows further concern when he tells the EFSB, "you, the voting members of the EFSB, have a responsibility to not simply approve and assume authority of all energy-related filings authorized by statute, but to maintain a high standard of conduct for all parties associated therewith, ESPECIALLY those asking for privilege to override local authority and control. One of the options for the EFSB is to allow the denial by the Agawam City Council to stand.

Mr. Reed then asks the full Siting Board to reject any tentative approval of said petitioned override by Berkshire Power because such action will send a clear message that all future petitioners will be expected to maintain full "Adherence to the law in all respects including a clear statement of facts while under oath. Further, the Board's failure to hold this petitioner accountable will ultimately put the full Board at risk and result in a further erosion of public confidence, not only in Agawam, but across the Commonwealth — clearly not what was envisioned when the Siting Council was first created in the 1970's."

After reading the above, we now have the chief analyst for the EFSB confirming everything that I and others have said regarding the EFSB and its relationship with Berkshire Power. Mr. Reed has confirmed that BP has been less than honest

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1999 at: 7:00 P.M., for all parties interested in the petition of the SPRINGFIELD WATER & SEWER COMMISSION, which is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-55, Paragraph B-22, Section 180-69 and Section 180-71 of the Zoning Ordinances to allow for the installation of a membrane structure at the premises identified as: ROUTE 5, BONDI'S ISLAND.

Doreen Prouty, **Acting Chairperson**

Published: September 9, 1999

- ADVERTISER NEWS -

while under oath, and that the EFSB is not to be trusted in protecting our community's safety and best interest against such companies as BP. He has also proven that others and I were correct when we told the City Council that payoffs were made, political influence was exerted, and that the fix was in. As a result, Mr. Reed has further solidified a winnable appeal against BP and the EFSB as it regards the illegal oil storage tank and its permits.

Given Mr. Reed's strong statements about the EFSB's deplorable actions, the City Council has no choice but to appeal the override of its decisions. Berkshire Power has never beaten us in a court of law, so they have come to rely on the town of unwillingness to challenge the Siting Board's improper decisions. Keep in mind that the EFSB should never have had jurisdiction over this case because BP is not a Public Utility. The Council's attorney already has the full case in place, which will keep the cost at a minimum. The cost will also be minimal because it is a one-time-only appeal. Since the Mayor has said we have tons of extra money, there is no reason not to go forward with an appeal. Isn't it time some of our extra money be spent defending our laws and our

Five years is far too long for our town to allow Berkshire Power, the EFSB, and four or five of our local elected officials to ignore their oaths of office and our laws. Big corporate owners, working in cahoots with bad government officials, must be shown that they can no longer cater to their own or the special interest of others by taking advantage of a community that they obviously care very little about.

> Thank you, Louis Russo Feeding Hills

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1999 at: 6:30 P.M., for all parties interested in the petition of MR. & MRS. ROBERT MARTIN, who are seeking relief from Section 180-27, of the Zoning Ordinances which would allow for the construction of a single family residential structure with less than the required frontage and lot size at the premises identified as: LOTS NO. 126 & 127, MAR-DALE AVENUE.

Doreen Prouty, **Acting Chairperson** Published: September 9, 1999

Riverside Announces Grand Reopening Of Borgatti Field

September 13th At 2:00 P.M. At Borgatti Field In Agawam

Riverside Park and the Agawam Parks and Recreation Department have completed the renovation of Borgatti Field in Agawam. In May, Riverside offered to donate funding to increase the number of family-oriented attractions available at the field. Borgatti is located on River Road about half a mile from Main Street.

"We really want to be a positive presense in Agawam," says Park Spokesperson Jerry Gretzinger. "Borgatti Field is a popular recreation area in the town. Upgrading the facility is just another way we can say thank-you to the people of Agawam.

According to Gretzinger, the nearly \$10,000 renovation included purchasing and installing new picnic benches, barbecue grills, a new sign at the River Road entrance, and a train-shaped

children's playscape.

The field, named for Ed Borgatti, Sr., was originally a piece of farmland owned by the Corr family. At the recommendation of Borgatti, the town purchased the land in 1965.

Citing his hard work to turn the land into a recreation area, the town board unanimously decided to name the land "Edward G. Borgatti

Borgatti served on the Agawam police force for 32 years. He was elected to the Park and Recreation Board in 1960.

Agawam Republicans Slate Breakfast Mtg. For September 11th

The Agawam Republican Town Committee will hold a breakfast meeting on Saturday, September

11th, at 8:30 a.m. at the Oak Ridge Golf Club on South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills.

Ron LaRiviere, committee chairman, asks that all regular members of the committee attend this meeting, along with anyone wishing to become an associate member of the committee.

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Berkshire Power Gets State Approval To Store Fuel Oil...

State Overturns Town Council Vote

by Kathy Cassanelli

For the second time in as many years, a state agency has overturned a local regulatory decision in favor of Berkshire Power.

Last week, the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) voted unanimously to override Town Council's denial of an oil storage tank, thereby allowing Berkshire Power to store 500,000 of fuel oil as a back-up fuel in the event the supply of natural gas is interrupted.

Two years ago, the Department of Telecommunications and Energy overrode a Board of Appeals decision denying the power developer's request for a special permit to build structures exceeding the 40-foot height limit in the zoning code, paving the way for the construction of a 250 magazing the gas fired power plant on Movies Land megawatt, gas-fired power plant on Moylan Lane.

Town Council President Donald Rheault, who led the council's fight against the Berkshire Power appeal at hearings held last spring in Boston, cannot say for sure whether or not the full council will want to appeal the EFSB decision.

"I have no idea what the council will want to do until we discuss this," Rheault said. "I do know that they're not happy that an outside board over-

turned their decision."

As for himself, Rheault is reserving judgment until he determines whether any conditions have

been added on to the decision.

"I can't arbitrarily say yes or no to an appeal.
We have to look at this to see if it's going to be a \$300,000 legal bill and do we want to go forward,"
Rheault said. "We have a lot to look at before making a determination.'

Councilor Nancy Thompson was not surprised by the EFSB decision, but she does have some concerns that the oil storage tank was built without getting the proper permit from the State Fire Marshall.

"Obviously, Berkshire Power met the specs or they wouldn't have gotten the EFSB approval for the oil tank," said Ms. Thompson. "But, the way they went about the permit process for constructing the tank was a major faux pas.'

Ms. Thompson believes there is no reason to be concerned about the safety of the oil tank since it was constructed using state-of-the-art technology that includes multiple containment safeguards in the event of an oil spill. Ms. Thompson said she does not anticipate that the power plant will be burning oil for any length of time.

Berkshire Power Plant Manager Frank Basile could not be reached for comment, despite repeated phone calls.

In October, the council voted 8-3 to deny Berkshire Power's request for a license to store 500,000 gallons of fuel oil on the site for use as a back-up fuel source in the event that the flow of natural gas to the plant is interrupted.

The majority of the council refused to grant the oil storage license after raising concerns over air pollution, transportation safety, the company's

evacuation plan, and a distrust of the company's ability to fulfill their promises.

Voting in favor of the oil storage license were Councilors Nancy Thompson, Jill Simpson, and George Bitzas. Opposed were Rheault, Vice-

President Robert Magovern, and Councilors Gina Letellier, Robert Young, Edward Caba, Dennis Perry, John Negrucci, and Gary Geiger.

After Berkshire Power petitioned the EFSB for an override of that decision, Town Council tried to have the case dismissed because the application for a building permit falsely indicated that the proper state permits had been granted. Some councilors traveled to Boston to offer testimony defending their decision to deny the oil storage license

at the EFSB hearings in April.

A New Twist To The Controversy...

The controversy over the oil storage facility took a new twist last spring when it was discovered to the control of the discovered that representatives of Berkshire Power failed to obtain the necessary permit from the State Fire Marshall to build the tank. Company officials said they had mistakenly believed the necessary state permit had been granted when filling out the building permit application.
Subsequently, Fire Marshall Stephen D. Coan

ordered Berkshire Power to refrain from filling the tank with any fluid pending further investigation and/or action by his office. Building Inspector Dominic Urbinati also issued a stop work order on the completion of the tank.

Berkshire Power admitted responsibility for the error and was fined \$1,000 in Springfield Superior

The Fire Marshall is reviewing the construction of the tank.

The latest twist in the case of the oil storage tank came just before the EFSB met last Wednesday, September 1st, to vote on the override request with the release of a letter from the senior

EFSB analyst in the Berkshire Power case.

On August 26th, Dana G. Reed sent a letter to the EFSB chairman stating that his July resignation, after seven years with the EFSB, was based on recurring travel/parking accommodation negatives as considerable factors in his decision. But, Reed said those were not the sole factors behind his decision.

Referring to the likelihood of the EFSB granting an override of the Agawam Town Council denial of an oil storage permit, Reed writes that such a decision has "shattered my confidence that I ever had of the Agawam community (and perhaps others) being dealt with fairly in such matters."
Reed goes on to point out that the record of

evidence in the case supports the argument that the oil tank is improperly sized based on a previous binding department decision that called for a 50 percent reduction in the originally planned 930,000 gallon storage tank. Reed suggests that Berkshire Power representatives deliberately distorted the measurement during testimony under oath. Reed also cites the problem of locating the oil storage tank in fairly close proximity to L.V. Heliport's landing and takeoff pad, even though the record shows that the base is used infrequently.

In his letter, Reed asks that his "opposition as lead analyst on the case be publicly recorded" at the September 1st EFSB meeting "and/or my good name removed from both the Tentative and Final Decision documents..."

Obituary

Angelo Orefice

Angelo Orefice, 65, of Agawam, died recently in

a local nursing home.

He was a 35-year dispatcher at Hamilton Standard Division of United Technologies in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, where he retired in 1992. He had also worked part-time at Chez Josef and as a

Born in Enfield, Connecticut, he graduated from Enfield High School, where he was voted All-Western Massachusetts football player. He later attended American International College in Spr-

He was an Army veteran of the Korean War, hav-

ing served in England as a mail and ordinance man. He achieved the rank of specialist second class, E-5.

He was a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church, and was a former member of the Mount Carmel Association of Enfield.

He leaves his wife, the former Margaret Ahlberg; a son, Tony P. of Agawam; a daughter, Christine M. Gilbert of Belchertown; a brother, Paul of Enfield; and two sisters, Ida Blake of Daytona Beach, Florida, and Mary Masciadrelli of Westfield.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in

Agawam Center Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the church at 103 Bridge Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

Veterans' Corner... Veterans' Council Golf Tournament

by Ruth C. Bitzas Veterans' Agent 786-0400, Ext. 236-237

We want to thank all of the golfers who participated in our annual Veterans' Council Golf Tournament.

August 21st will go down in history as the wettest day of the summer of 1999, but regardless of the weather the tournament was a success. I was amazed at the attitudes of the golfers; many of them commented on how this was for the Veterans' Honor Roll and how we have no control over the weather. They were truly good sports. Some went home and changed to dry clothes and

came back for the dinner and raffle.

We had a total of 86 great prizes and a wonderful dinner and, of course, the raffle is always fun. We realized proceeds in the amount of \$2,000 to

help build the Honor Roll on Veterans' Green.
The Honor Roll grand total to date is \$31,710.
The Honor Roll will cost approximately \$70,000. Our goal is \$35,000, then we will go before the City Council with our design and seek their support in matching the amount raised.

We've done our very best and it's now time to raise an Honor Roll on the Town Veterans' Green.

HONOR ROLL LIST:
Beginning in next week's column, we will begin publishing our Honor Roll list for the second and

last time in order to allow residents another opportunity to come forward if they haven't as yet.

Once again, eligibility guidelines include Honorable Service or a General Discharge under Honorable Conditions. Wartime active service as established in Chapter 4 of the Mass. General Laws, and their wartime service, must be credited to the Town of Agawam to the Town of Agawam.

This means the veteran must have resided in Agawam when he entered into active duty in the military. The Honor Roll is an active duty Honor Roll and does not include Reserve service.

In Loving Memory Of Andrea Lynn Borsari

Who Passed Away March 5, 1999 -On Her Birthday, September 7, 1999

> "Happy Birthday To Our Guardian Angel"



Love, Mom, Andy, Nana, Grandpa, Koosha, Tigger, Humpty & Mittens

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Agawam Town Council Approves \$850,000 Supplemental Budget

by Kathy Cassanelli News Editor

With a vote of 8-1 on Tuesday evening, Town Council accepted the supplemental budget proposed by Mayor Christopher C. Johnson that will create one new position, assist in meeting the requirements of the High School accreditation report, boost the town's stabilization fund, and pay for a fire rescue vehicle, building improvements, and two playscapes, all without a tax

Johnson's proposal adds \$850,000 to the \$45.2 million operating budget which received the unanimous approval of Town Council in June.

The money to pay for the supplemental budget comes from new growth in the property tax levy which exceeds the estimated \$650,000 that was the basis for the Mayor's original spending plan for the next fiscal year.

According to Johnson, "The continued con-struction of the Berkshire Power facility and the continued expansion of Riverside Park and other businesses and residences has created approximately \$850,000-plus in excess new growth. In other words. I am proposing to fund the entire supplemental operating budget from excess new growth which will still result in no tax increase.'

After criticizing the School Department for spending a \$200,000 surplus in its budget on Special Education costs and computers, Councilor Dennis Perry voted against the supplemental

Perry opposed the Mayor's request to spend \$75,000 to assist in meeting the requirements of the High School accreditation report, noting that not every taxpayer in town has children in the

Proposing to delete the school spending from the supplemental budget, Perry said, "These things have accumulated over the years and the school board allowed that. By deleting the budget item. we would send a message that you have to keep on the ball every day and not just every 10 years when an accreditation board comes to the

But. Perry could find no second for his motion to strike the funds, although other councilors

directed similar criticisms at the School Depart-

In explaining to Perry how unforeseen costs in the area of Special Education left the School Department with no choice but to spend surplus funds from other areas rather than return the money to the town, Councilor Caba said the School Department had assumed an additional \$100,000 for a student who entered a Special Education program one day short of the deadline.
"I don't want to sound without a heart, but this

is the scheme of Special Education where they can choose an area of special education. We have no control over it and we have to bear the burden," Caba said. "This happened the day before the deadline to accept the student. They know the scorecard and how to play the game."
Regarding School Committee's Evaluation...

Referring to the recent School Committee evaluation of the school superintendent's job performance, Councilor Gary Geiger said it left a bad taste to be asked for additional funds when the highest paid municipal employee received a satisfactory job rating and charged that the school administration officers were over-staffed.

"We have three very well paid superintendents," Geiger said. "If you eliminated one of those jobs, we'd have the money for more people in the field where they are needed. And we're one of the only communities to have a full-time at that be a part-time position for an assistant principal?

Geiger said he would vote for the school spending even though he also believes the problems have been accumulating over the years. "It's too late now and they need the money," Geiger said.

Council Vice President Robert Magovern said

the budget points to a lot of hard work done behind the scenes by the councilors working to have the supplemental money for the High

Calling the school spending, "an investment in our children," Councilor George Bitzas added, "They need this money to correct serious ac-

creditation problems."

Most of the new funding approved by the council will go to the stabilization fund to assist in completing planned capital improvement projects including a new Department of Public Works (DPW) garage and expansion projects at the Senior Center and Town Hall. Adding \$500,000 to the stabilization fund is expected to give the town approximately \$2.5 million to draw on during the initial years of temporary and permanent borrowing for the proposed capital improvements.
A Commitment To Fiscal Prudence

Increasing its financial reserves demonstrates a commitment to fiscal prudence and puts the town in a better position to obtain favorable interest rates on \$9.65 million in bonds (to pay for a portion of the recently completed school expansion and renovations projects, reducing the cost of the school projects to the taxpayers, according to Johnson).

Equal amounts (\$75,000) will be spent on purchasing and installing two new playscapes at Perry Lane Park and on assisting the School Department to meet the recommendations in the recent high school accreditation report of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. The School Department will be asked to submit a report in June to explain how the funds were used at the High School.

The budget includes \$41,000 to purchase a 1986 G.M.C. rescue vehicle from the Wurtsboro Fire Department in New York and \$20,650 to pay the salary of a recycling coordinator/public health in-

spector for the remainder of the fiscal year.
The new budget proposal also calls for \$146,748 to be added to the Building Maintenance budget for the purchase and installation of new lockers in the AHS boys' locker room and for the clean-up costs of an oil spill at Clark School.

Based on a price quote from a school furniture supplier, the cost of the new gym lockers is estimated at \$67,485 and cleaning up the oil contaminated soil at Clark School is expected to cost an additional \$79,263.



In Friday Night Incident...

Three Men Arrested At Games And Lanes In Friday Night Incident

by Kathy Cassanelli

Just one week after Agawam Police arrested three New Haven men in a drug bust in the parking lot of Games and Lanes on Walnut Street Extension during a "rave" dance party, three more arrests were made on Friday night, September 3rd, at another dance at the popular entertain-

Agawam Detective Sergeant Wayne Macey said Games and Lanes manager Christopher Brunelle, 31, of 40 Brunelle Street, Ludlow, was taken into custody and charged with two counts of assault and battery on a police officer, being a disorderly person, and resisting arrest at 11:45 p.m. on Fri-

day, September 3rd.

Also arrested were Michael Halpy, 20, of 15 Jennie Circle, Agawam, who was charged with one count of assault and battery on a police officer, being a disorderly person, and resisting arrest; and Leo Bordeleau, 38, of 309 South Street, Danielson, CT, who was charged with being a disorderly person and resistend are Tuesday in Spr

All three men were arraigned on Tuesday in Springfield District Court and were freed on bail. Their cases were continued for pre-trail con-

Macey said the arrests stemmed from an incident in the parking lot where a number of officers, both uniformed and plainclothes, were on duty to prevent drug trafficking in the wake of the incident a week earlier that resulted in three New Haven men being charged with allegedly selling

the drug Ecstasy in the parking lot.
In addition to the police officers on duty in the parking lot, there were three uniformed officers stationed within the bowling alley, two at the door, and one inside the after-hours dance which was underway Friday night from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. The dances, which have been held several times over the summer, are open to

patrons over 18 years of age.
"The uniformed and plainclothes officers were in the parking lot because we'd had problems in the past with people selling drugs and we were making sure that no one would be selling drugs again," Macey said.

Manager Confronts Patrolman... The latest arrests at Games and Lanes occurred after manager Christopher Brunelle came running across the parking lot to confront Patrolman Michael Gruska, apparently upset that so many police officers were in the area. After Brunelle

allegedly pushed Officer Gruska, he was arrested. While being arrested, Brunelle was wrestled to the ground, according to Macey.

At that point, according to the police, Brunelle called for the private security guards he had hired for the event to come to his assistance. When the other two men entered the fray, they were taken into custody by the police.

All three men, along with Officer Gruska, were taken to Baystate Medical Center, where they

were treated and released.

Gruska sustained a strained shoulder in the incident and is expected to be on sick leave for at least four days. At least one of the suspects left the hospital wearing a cervical collar, but Macey was unsure of the details of their medical conditions. All were treated and immediately released.

While the suspects were heard to raise questions of police brutality, Macey discounted those

"Obviously, you do hear about police brutality and sometimes, of course, it is true, but not this time," Macey said. "There were a lot of officers present who observed what happened.'

Because Games and Lanes operates under an entertainment license as well as licenses for their video games, the establishment is subject to police inspection at any time, Macey said.

"We don't have any problems with people enjoying themselves at an event," Macey said. "Our

problems start when drugs are introduced into the

While the police have not caught anyone selling drugs inside the dance parties, Macey fears that because the police recently arrested the three men from New Haven, allegedly selling drugs in the parking lot, that there is more than a possiblity that drugs are being sold inside.
With an estimated 150 to 200 people attending

the dance on Friday night, Macey said the police were concerned that the large crowd of about 50 people gathered in the parking lot could turn into

riot.

"We're afraid of the possibility of what could happen at 3:00 a.m. with kids ingesting different kinds of drugs that are sold at events like this," Macey said. "We don't want it in Agawam and we won't tolerate any of it."

Macey said the three men arrested were taken to the hospital because they had complained of neck and back injuries

neck and back injuries.

Please remember that our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays.

Agawam Fire Dept. Reacts Quickly To **Apartment Fire**

by Kathy Shepard Feature Editor

Firefighters reacted quickly to alarms from a fire at Shibley Court Apartments, 33 Norman Terrace, Feeding Hills late Wednesday afternoon,

Firefighters from several surrounding towns cooperated in evacuating tenants, finding the fire's source, and responding to smoke build-up. Firefighters contended with heavy smoke, which was reported by a tenant whose apartment was above the fire's source. Reportedly, smoke was pouring out the tenant's water faucets and drains.

When firefighters arrived, they began evacuating tenants, guiding second-floor tenants down ladders because it was impossible to use the smoke-filled stairways. The damage was so extensive that the floor of one apartment was un-

No one was hospitalized, but an ambulance remained on the scene and several tenants received oxygen. Firefighters tried to coax two cats from a smoke-filled apartment, and though one survived, the other feline was overcome by smoke inhalation and, despite extensive attempts by firefighters to revive her, did not survive.

After tenants were evacuated, firefighters were

seen going door-to-door, breaking windows to allow smoke to escape. The fire is under investigation and is of suspicious origin according to the Agawam Fire Dept. It started in the base-

ment, in a storage area.

A passageway leading from that area to the laundry facility is also in the vicinity of the central electricity housing, and heat had melted some of the wiring.

Basement Fires Some Of The Worst
According to Deputy Fire Chief Steven Martin, "Basement fires are the worst due to the intense heat and lack of ventilation. Heat and smoke build up and are very dense, so locating the fire is extremely difficult and dangerous. The firefighters of the 'D Shift' had to endure these extreme conditions and they did an excellent job of locating the source of the fire. Intense conditions like smoke and heat in an enclosed area pose a great risk to firefighters.'

In some of the upstairs apartments, smoke had also accumulated inside the units, and when the doors to these units were opened, large amounts of smoke billowed out. There was significant damage to the section above the area where fire broke out. One section of the building, from the Springfield Street end to the fire wall, was evacuated for almost a week. The portion of the

building closer to North Street was evacuated for two nights.

SEE APARTMENT FIRE - Page 9...

Paid Political Ad

Coming on

September 15th:

Pizza and a Movie With Paid Political Ad

More Than Just Movies!

866 Suffield St. Agawam

Nancy E. Thompson Candidate for Mayor of Agawam

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; Movie begins at 7:15 p.m.

Pizza, popcorn and soda will be served

Donations:

Adult, \$7.50 Family of 4: \$20 Children under 12 yrs.-old, \$4 Family of 5: \$25

Possible movie to be shown:

"Star Wars: The Phantom Menace" * "Runaway Bride" "The Iron Giant" * "Inspector Gadget"

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WALK OF FAITH

READ: 2 Corinthians 5:1-11

We walk by faith, not

-2 Corinthians 5:7

by sight.

Tonstructed to give people the illusion of walking on air, "The Walk of Faith" is a platform of laminated glass at the top of a 385-foot tower in Blackpool, England. An Associated Press photo showed a woman at the edge of the invisible walkway, fists clenched against her face, trying to summon the courage to take a step. She had been told the platform was safe, but she was still afraid.

Sometimes we feel that way about our circumstances. Perhaps a serious health problem has caused us to question the power and the presence

It's encouraging to note that Paul's familiar words "We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7) occur in his dis-

cussion about being "absent from the body and . . . present with the Lord" (v.8). He used a powerful metaphor, calling our body an earthly house that's being destroyed, yet he said we have a heavenly building made by God. He spoke of groaning in our earthly frailty and longing for our heavenly home. He concluded that no matter what circumstances we face, we should make it our goal to please the Lord (v.9).

Our walk of faith can be challenging and sometimes scary. But because God is powerful and present, we can step out in confidence today. - DCM

> The Lord wants us to walk by faith, Because our eyes can be deceived; And even though our path may fade, God's Word can always be believed. -Sper

IT IS BETTER TO WALK WITH GOD BY FAITH THAN TO GO ALONE BY SIGHT.

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• As A Council President:

Don Restored Respect And Credibility To The Agawam Town Council.

• As A Local Business Owner:

Don Was Recognized By The Chamber Of Commerce As One Of The 1999 Small Business Honorees Of The Year.

• As A Member Of The Community:

Don Was Elected To The Board Of Directors Of The American Lung Association, Agawam Chamber Of Commerce Board Of Directors, And Sacred Heart Church Parish Council.

• As Your Mayor:

Agawam Will Know Don As A Respected Professional Who Cares Deeply About The Community And Has The Leadership Skills And Qualities That People Can Trust.

Agawam Knows Don Rheault

Vote - Don Rheault - Mayor



AGAWAM CALL FIREFIGHTERS during the September 1st fire at the Shibley Court Apartments (from left to right): Senior Lt. Chet Nicora, Arnie Cone, Brian Chechile, Warren Miodowski, and John Poliwczak. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

APARTMENT FIRE - from Page 8...

The electricity for the entire building was shut off. Because the fire alarms would not function without electricity, tenants were told to find alternate dwellings until the power was restored. Late Friday afternoon, September 3rd, electricity was returned for the section closer to North Street. Tenants of the victimized building were without telephones during the holiday weekend. According to a spokesperson from Bell Atlantic, State Fire Marshall Frank Hart instructed telephone company repair workers to hold off until the investigation was complete, since the central wiring for the phones was near the spot that the fire first started.

Shibley Court owner Steve Deland provided a police officer to guard the apartment complex during the nights when tenants were displaced. The night of the fire, Red Cross volunteers came to offer assistance to the tenants, accommodating at least one family from Shibley Court. Many tenants were forced to find a hotel or to stay with friends or relatives, while several other Shibley occupants pitched their own tents and camped out on the grounds.

With school starting the following day, the timing of this fire posed more than an average inconvenience, but due to the quick response of "D Shift" and firefighters from cooperating towns, no one was hospitalized and damage was limited. The fire is being investigated by Fire Inspector Michael Mercadante, State Fire Marshall Frank Hart, and Agawam Police detectives.

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Campaign '99

Initiatives For Youth Announced By Mayoral Candidate Thompson

City Councilor Nancy E. Thompson, candidate for Mayor of Agawam, has announced two initiatives that she will implement as Mayor. These initiatives will focus on the young people of

Agawam.

In a recently-released press statement, Thompson said, "As the next Mayor of Agawam, I will establish a Mayor's Council on Youth, where Agawam children and adults will come together on a regular basis to discuss issues and solutions pertaining to Agawam's young people from safety and education to recreation and social issues.

"This Council on Youth will meet on a regular basis and will not only identify issues, but will be proactive in developing solutions to address the issues. This committee will coordinate its efforts and communicate with already established committees such as the recently formed Recreation Committee, the School Committee, or with other groups or departments such as the Police and/or Fire Department as deemed appropriate.

"This will be an action-oriented committee comprised of a cross section of Agawam's young people. I see this as a positive step in dealing with the issues and concerns of our young people. I believe that we need to involve our children in an endeavor such as this," Thompson said.

"As the next Mayor of Agawam, I will also work

"As the next Mayor of Agawam, I will also work with the Agawam High School government department and the High School students to develop and implement a hands-on program (for credit) for those students who are interested in learning more about local government. Along with classroom teaching, this program will allow students to do an internship in City Hall or other areas of local government.

Residents To Register To Vote

Candidate Kasparian urges all the citizens who are currently not registered to vote, to fill out and submit to the Agawam City Clerk's office the sim-

ple voting registration form.

This year, there are 15 additional reasons why you should vote. Mayoral candidate Kasparian is willing to PAY you to come out to vote! You can earn \$5 for the primary, and \$10 for the main election when you cast your vote for Kasparian as Mayor and he is elected to the office!

Mayor and he is elected to the office!
Since the Attorney General's recent decision that voter fraud does not exist in the Ninth Hampden District for State Representative, then we can conclude that anything and everything goes!

Candidate Kasparian is making it even easier this year for you to fill out your form. You can stop by his campaign office and pick-up a registration form, fill out that form, and Candidate Kasparian will be more than happy to drop your registration off at the clerk's office.

After you have voted him into office, you can stop by that same address on School Street and pick-up your \$15 stipend! Don't worry! There is no such thing as voter fraud, not in Hampden County! It has been repealed by the Attorney General's

Better yet, call Candidate Kasparian at his home, which also serves as his Campaign Head-quarters, and Candidate Kasparian will deliver that form to your home, wait patiently for you to fill it out, and then deliver it to the City Clerk's office. WHAT SERVICE!! Where and when have you seen THAT before?

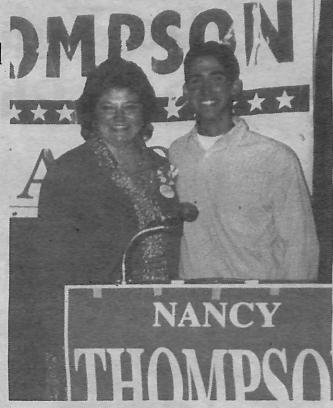
Remember, don't hesitate. September 15th is the last day to register. You will lose out on the democratic process, and a chance to pick up a \$15 stipend from Candidate Kasparian, next Mayor of Agawam!

Get involved, and make a few bucks at the same time! Your vote will FINALLY count (for \$15 this

year).

Candidate Kasparian's campaign headquarters is located at 161 School Street, Agawam. He can be reached at 789-4406, or e-mail through Candidate Kasparian's web site at http://www.angelfire.com/ma2/mayorabe.

For the best in local goods and services, be sure to check our classified ads each and every week...



MAYORAL CANDIDATE Nancy Thompson with Justin Gorman, AHS's senior class president.

"This internship will be constructed so that the student will not only learn first-hand about how Agawam's government works, but who will also be required to complete a project. As local government officials, I believe we need to cultivate a positive knowledge base on local government in our young people. This will be a constructive way to educate and to excite children about local government," Thompson concluded.

Candidate Bonavita Offers Qualifications For City Council

In a press release issued this week, Agawam City Council candidate Anthony C. Bonavita offered

his qualifications to the voters.

Bonavita stated, "I believe it is important for the voters to know who their candidates are and what they want to accomplish. It is in this spirit that I offer my qualifications to the voters as a first step. I will be a positive voice for Agawam."

Bonavita is 46 years-old and resides at 683 Cooper Street, Agawam, with his wife, Adele, and their two children, Carlo and Franca. Both children have graduated from Agawam High School and attend college.

Bonavita has been an attorney for over 21 years after graduating from Fordham University and Suffolk University Law School. Now he is a member of the Law Office of Bonavita, Walsh and Forgarty

John O'Brien of Feeding Hills serves as Bonavita's campaign committee chairman. O'Brien emphasized, "We know Anthony is uniquely qualified to serve as a councilor. In his various positions throughout the community, he has demonstrated a professionalism which will be an asset to the City Council. His life experience is based upon public service. His committee proudly urges the voters to support him."

Presently, Bonavita serves as vice chairman of the Zoning Task Force and serves as a member of the Italian Sister Commission. He also has been of service to the town as a former Town Attorney.

Bonavita is a past president and present member of the Board of Directors of the Agawam Lions Club. In youth sports, he has coached youth soccer and basketball.

Also, he was chairman of the Stadium Lights Committee which helped raise funds for lights at the Agawam High School stadium.

Richard Cohen's Campaign Manager Discusses Strategy For Mayoral Race

In a press statement released recently, Bill Daubmann, campaign manager and friend of Mayoral candidate Richard Cohen, said, "It gives me great pleasure to introduce Richard Cohen for Mayor of Agawam.

"I have known Richard for the past five years and feel that with the education, personality, and organizational skills that he possesses, he would be an ideal candidate. I told Richard that if Mayor Johnson decided not to run for re-election, then I would help him in any way I could.

"Neither Richard nor myself have ever been involved with politics, but both of us have been helping people for many years," Daubmann said. "I have never met anyone who would go out of their way to help strangers like Mr. Cohen. He and

I think along the same lines and I am pleased to be able to run his election campaign bid.

"We are going to run a very active, but low budget campaign," Daubmann explained, "as we feel we want your support as citizens and feel that good government is run by the people and for the people.

"We will be holding many local coffee hours, picnics, backyard barbeques, etc., so that as many people that would like to meet Richard can do so. You can visit his website at Rich.Cohen. Net, e-mail him at RichardaCohen.Net, or call him at 780 4566."

at 789-4566."

Daubmann concluded, "Anyone wishing to become involved in helping us can reach either Richard or myself at 789-4566 or 786-8420."

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Paid Political Ad

ELECT JOSEPH MINEO TOWN COUNCIL

- Married
 Wife: Anna
 3 Children: Carmino,
 Luca, And Joanna
- 3 Children In Agawam Public Schools
- Mayor's Recreation Assessment Committee
- Volunteer For Fresh Air Fund
- 20-Year Employee Hampden County Employment And Training Consortium



Committee To Elect Joseph Mineo Thomas DeNardo, Treasurer

Accountability

Open-Minded

• Responsible

Effective

Campaign '99 - continued...

Kasparian Addresses **Issue Of Land Once Owned By County**

While County Commissioner, Candidate Kasparian advocated for a Senior Citizen's Center and soccer fields. Kasparian worked closely with Paine and Company, landscape architects of Westfield, to design a site plan for the 50-acre parcel of then-County property.

The project, which incorporated a footprint for a new 20,000 square-foot Senior Center, and much needed soccer fields was, according to Kasparian, a "quality of life issue for both young and

Attorney Scott E. Skolnick of Feeding Hills suggested the need for the soccer fields for the youth in our community at a public hearing of the County Commission more than two years ago.

The then Hampden County Regional Service Committee, chaired by Commissioner Kasparian, set off on a mission to utilize the 50 acres of land on the corners of School Street and River Road to create a senior and youth recreational facility. This facility would have included picnicing areas, a small playground, soccer fields, a greenhouse, senior center, a winding bike path, plus would have preserved two registered historical buildings on School Street.

It has been nearly two years since the plan was prepared by Paine and Company at the direction of then County Commissioner Kasparian, and over one year since the state takeover of county property on School Street. Sadly, for the citizens of Agawam, the now state-owned 50 acres on School Street still go unutilized for the benefit of

the citizens of Agawam.

Currently, the taxpayers of Agawam are renting space from the state that is approximately 40-plus years-old, and we utilize that space as our Senior Center. In speaking with Congressman Neal's office and exploring the possibilities of creating Agawam's own Senior Center and the possibility of funding for that building project, "I was assured that Congressman Neal was supportive of this quality of life issue for our seniors. County Commissioner, I had spoken with many of our corporate citizens, such as Berkshire Power and Riverside Park, and received interest in sup-

porting such a worthy project," said Kasparian.
"As Mayor of Agawam, I will work hard to make quality of life issues a top priority without impacting the taxpayer and will work to motivate both state and federal government to assist in such metorious projects at the local level.'

Candidate Kasparian's campaign headquarters is located at 161 School Street, Agawam. He can be reached at 789-4406, or e-mail through Candidate Kasparian's web site at http://www.angel fire.com/ma2/mayorabe.

Rheault Concerned About The Possibility Of A Teacher Shortfall

Mayoral candidate Don Rheault (pronounced "Rowe") said that he is alarmed at the possibility of being faced with a teacher shortfall

Rheault said that the turnover rate for new teachers is "alarming" and that his administration would work to alleviate problems that seem to be driving new teachers out of the profession.

Rheault cited his own son as having recently left the teaching profession after just four years. "He has been a great source of information about the difficulties and problems that teachers en-

Rheault said the possibility of a teacher shortfall is very real and needs to be addressed immediately. Rheault cited our neighboring state of Connecticut as evidence of the severity of the teacher shortfall. He says schools across that state have had to deal with unprecedented vacan-

Rheault says he is very encouraged by the early feedback he has received about the expanded mentoring program. "I believe the concept of teaming new teachers with veteran educators is sound, and I certainly would be supportive of any ways that we could help to strengthen the program. It certainly is a piece in solving the puzzle."

Rheault concluded by saying that Agawam has an administration that is aware of the problem

and is sincere in their efforts to address it. Deputy Superintendent of Schools Mary Czajkowski has done an excellent job, said Rheault. "As mayor, it would be my intention to provide continued assistance, support, and the tools to those responsible for getting the job done."

Best local news...



CONGRESSMAN RICHARD NEAL (right) and real estate broker/former County Commissioner Abe Kasparian met and discussed issues dealing with tax relief, education, and real estate at a recent breakfast meeting held at the Greater Springfield Association of Realtors. Kasparian serves as a member of the Government Affairs Committee of the Association of Realtors.

Jack O'Neill Named Chairperson Of Thompson's Campaign Committee

The Thompson for Mayor Committee is pleased to announce that Jack O'Neill has been named Campaign Committee Chairperson.
Nancy E. Thompson, candidate for Mayor of

Agawam, has released the follow statement:

When I first announced in June that I would seek the office of Mayor of Agawam, I indicated that my Campaign Committee was working as a team and that at some point we would name a campaign committee chairman.

"That time has arrived and it is our distinct pleasure to announce Jack O'Neill as our Campaign Committee Chairman."

Mr. O'Neill is a longtime resident of Agawam. He is well-known for his work in the field of public relations and in both the radio and television

Paid Political Ad

Paid Political Ad

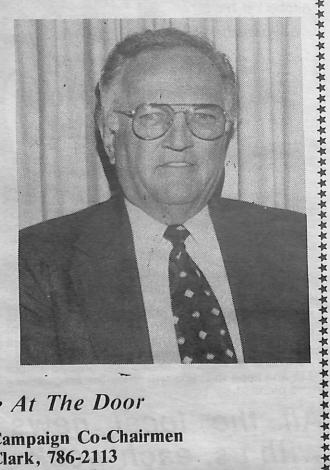
Don Rheault For Mayor Ziti And Meatball Dinner

Wednesday, September 22nd 5:00 To 7:00 P.M.

Polish American Club 139 Southwick Street (Route 57) Feeding Hills

Proceeds To Benefit Don Rheault For Mayor Campaign

Donation: Senior Citizens - \$2 Children - \$2 Adults - \$5



Tickets Available At The Door

For Information, Call Campaign Co-Chairmen Korby & Pete Clark, 786-2113 Rudy Altobelli, 786-1577 *************************************

Campaign '99 - continued...

Mineo Discusses **Issue Of Sewers** In Feeding Hills

In a press release issued this week, Joe Mineo, candidate for Agawam Town Council, stated the

"I have been a resident of Agawam for 11 years. My family and I have thoroughly enjoyed the town and all that it has to offer. My children are receiving an excellent education from the Agawam schools and have flourished as a result of this ex-

cellent system.

"I have coached and my children have participated in youth sports, which they enjoyed very much. Agawam is a great town, a good place to bring up a family. However, I have a few salient concerns that I would like to share with you.

"When I purchased my house, I was aware of the fact that the Feeding Hills area lacked sewers, but was assured that this situation would eventually be corrected by the town. As you well know, the septic systems attached to the vast majority

of homes in my area are inadequate.
"Horror stories abound from residents who have experienced the horrendous results of a failed septic system. Septic systems that are in high water tables areas are designed to last between 20 to 25 years before they eventually need to be updated; a costly enterprise to say the least.
"As your Town Council representative, I will

make every effort possible to bring Feeding Hills and other areas of Agawam the sewer system we need and are entitled to. I will work with the appropriate town departments, state and federal agencies, and do research to find the money to carry this project through.

"One very possible scenario is the eventual expansion of Route 57 to Southwick. This would be a good time to supdetake a project of the

a good time to undertake a project of this magnitude because land clearing and road construction will be taking place. The laying of sewer pipe would be appropriate at this time, considering the fact that drain pipes for the extension will

be installed as well.
"This project is just one of many I feel need to be addressed to enhance the quality of life in Agawam. I will be writing about this and other important town concerns in future editions of this paper," concluded Mineo.

Ziti Fundraiser For Rheault Campaign

Mayoral candidate Don Rheault (pronounced "Rowe") has finalized plans for his fundraiser dinner. The date is Wednesday, September 22nd at the Polish American Club from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

A ziti and meatball dinner will be prepared by "Bill" Farwell and assisted by a host of volunteers, according to campaign managers

Pete & Korby Clark.
This will be a "casual dinner" in an informal setting where families and friends can enjoy a very inexpensive dinner and meet with Don.

If, for some reason, you do not receive tickets in the mail, they will be available at the door. The interest level has been very high and all are invited.

For more information, or if you want to help, call Pete or Korby Clark at 786-2113 or Rudy Altobelli at 786-1577.

At September 15th's General Meeting...

Agawam Retired Employees To Host Mayoral Candidates

The next general meeting of Agawam Retired Employees will be held on September 15th at 2:00

p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. The four mayoral candidates have been invited to this meeting to speak to the membership.

We have also scheduled State Representative Dan Keenan and State Senator Linda Melconian to speak on a proposed, automatic abatement on property taxes for those residents who reach age 70 and have lived in town for 30 years. They will also answer questions relative to legislation affecting residents.

Any retired employee of the Town of Agawam is welcome to attend and to become a member of this organization which has completed two years

of service to the membership.

We look forward to seeing you on September 15th and hope that you will enjoy the program we have planned.

All the local news with us, each week

Thompson Committee To Host "Movie Night" Fundraiser At Agawam Cinemas

The Thompson for Mayor Committee announces that it will host a movie fundraiser on Wednesday, September 15th. This family-oriented event will be held at the Agawam Family Cinemas

on Suffield Street in Agawam.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the movie will begin at 7:15 p.m. This event will provide an opportunity to meet with City Councilor Nancy E. Thompson, candidate for Mayor of Agawam.

Tickets include pizza, popcorn, soda, and a movie. Prices are as follows: adults, \$7.50; children under 12 years-old, \$4; family of four, \$20; and family of five, \$25. Possible movie to be

shown: Star Wars, Episode 1 Phantom Menace; In-

spector Gadget; Iron Giant; or Runaway Bride.
Thompson stated that, "This is an opportunity
to meet with and hear from Agawam residents and at the same time, support and showcase a local small business here in our community.'

A computer will also be available for people to browse the website: www.ThompsonFor

Anyone interested in purchasing tickets may do so by mailing a check to: Thompson Committee, 19A Mansion Woods, Agawam, MA 01001-2364.

For photo coverage in The AAN, please call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice prior to your event...



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Hours: Mon.-Sat., 8-5:30 Closed Sundays

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\$2.95 Ea. or 4 For \$10.00

Large Pine Nuggets -**Mini Nuggets**

3 C.F. Bags \$3.95 Ea.

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* Fall Clearance Sale *

On Large 1 Gallon Container Plants

Green Lustre & Hellers

• White - Red - Purple Azaleas

Carolina Rhododendrons

Only \$4.95 Ea.

(While Supply Lasts)

• Blue Pacific - Blue Rug - Tam - Junipers

Japanese Holly

On Large 3 Gallon Container Plants

- Large-Leaf Pink, White, And Purple Rhododendrons
- Japanese Holly

Only \$15.00 Ea.

(While Supply Lasts)

Landscape Design And Planting



For Board Of Directors...

Roberta G. Doering **Announces Nominee** For YMCA Chair

At the YMCA of Greater Springfield's 146th Annual Meeting held at The Carriage House at the Barney Estate in Forest Park, MRS. ROBERTA G. DOERING was pleased to announce the nomination of a second woman as chair of the Board of Directors of the Springfield YMCA.

Mrs. Doering, the first female chair of the board, served in that capacity from 1979-1980. The YMCA awarded her a past chair pin that evening for her continued volunteer service. She is currently an Honorary Board Member, and a member of the Board of Corporators, Heritage Club, Board Development Committee, and Endowment Development & Investment Committee.

On a national level, Mrs. Doering sits on the YM-

CA of the USA's National Board. She resides in Agawam with her husband, Dr. James A. Doering, and is a member of the Agawam School Commit-

The name she announced was SUSAN A. LAVOIE, who was unanimously elected as Chairof the Board of Directors of the Springfield YMCA. Ms. Lavoie is only the second woman to hold this office since the Springfield YMCA was organized

She sits on the YMCA's Board Development Committee, Executive/Public Policy Committee, Finance Committee, and Long-Range Planning Committee. Last year, Ms. Lavoie was chosen Woman of the Year by the Women's Partnership within the Greater Springfield Chamber of Com-

Agawam Garden Club **Slates Meeting For** Tuesday, Sept. 14th

The Agawam Garden Club will have the September meeting on Tuesday, September 14th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam.

During the meeting, we will have a Dried and Silk Flower Workshop. Helen Lawrenchuk and Julia Kozikowski, both Agawam Garden Club members, will conduct the workshop.

Bring your own materials for the workshop. Refreshments will be served following the

Guests and new members are always welcome. Guest fee is \$1.

"Bear Walk" On September 12th At Robinson State Park

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management invites you to Robinson State Park on September 12th to participate in a "Bear Walk." The program will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will meet at the Pavilion.

In this short hike, we will be exploring the ecology of bears and what to do will with these monsters of the woods. Please bring

water, comfortable hiking shoes, and bug spray.
This free program is open to the public. Reasonable accommodations available upon advanced request by calling (413) 534-1723.

Applications Available For **Cultural Grants**

The Agawam Cultural Council has announced that applications for the 1999-2000 grants are available at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, and the Clerk's Office at the Town Hall, 36 Main Street, during normal business

Applications must be received by the council by October 15th in order to qualify for funds.
Further information may be obtained by calling

Our classified ads will bring you FAST, FAST results...



GERALD W. HAYES (left), outgoing Chairman of the Board of the Springfield YMCA, with Agawam resident Roberta G. Doering. Doering, a member of the Agawam School Committee, was the first woman to chair the local YMCA's Board of Directors (1979-1980) and recently received a past chair pin for her continued volunteer service.

She is also past president of the Rotary Club of Springfield. Currently, she is Vice President of the Eastern State Exposition in West Springfield and resides in Springfield. The YMCA is enriched by the volunteer efforts of these two women.

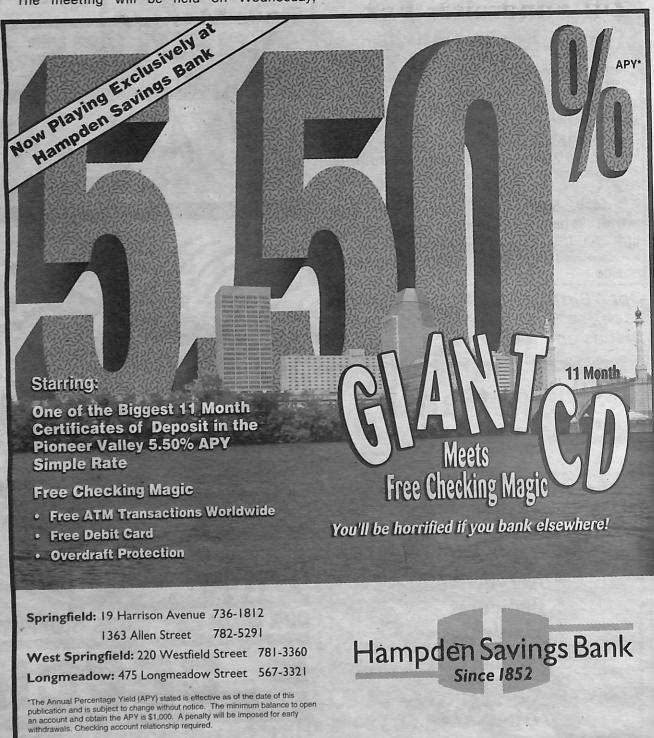
Council On Aging To Sponsor Mtg. With Mayoral Candidates On September 15th

The Council on Aging will be holding a special meeting with the candidates for mayor in the City of Agawam.

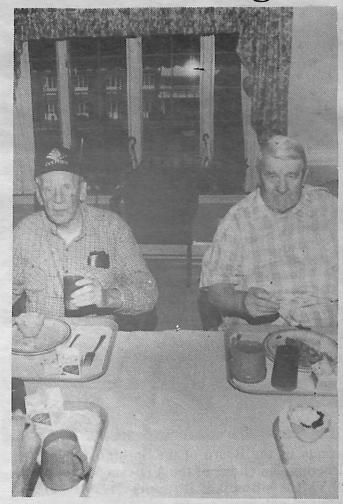
The meeting will be held on Wednesday,

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER Member FDIC/DIF All Deposits Insured In Full

September 15th at the Senior Center at 11:00 a.m. The sole item on the agenda is the future expansion of the Senior Center.



Heritage Hall Was Busy This Summer...







IN LEFT PHOTO: Eugene Besancan and Stanley Baj at Heritage Hall North's "Father's Day" celebration. IN CENTER PHOTO: Josephine Witkos participated in a "parade" at the West Building. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Tony and Teresa Russo, from Giovanni's Bakery in Agawam, decorated a cake for residents of Heritage Hall East. Looking on are residents Florence Cote, Nora Poirier, and Sally Cote. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, September 13th: Pork cutlet, mashed potatoes, gravy, spinach, rye bread, plums.

Tuesday, September 14th: Birthday celebration - shepherd's pie, pickled beets, whole wheat bread, birthday cake.

Wednesday, September 15th: Lasagna and meatballs, tossed salad, Vienna bread, tapioca pudding.

Thursday, September 16th: Roast turkey, stuffing with gravy, summer squash, cranberry sauce, mini rolls,

Friday, September 17th: Baked fish, potato salad, corn on the cob, rye bread, applesauce.

(Menu subject to change without notice.)

Our "Birthday Ads" cost just \$30 each, so why not "surprise" your friends and loved ones...

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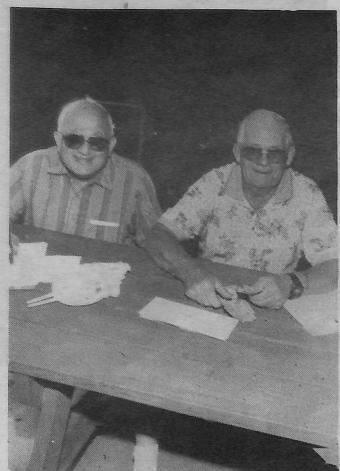
call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice DREAME YOUR OF



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1131 SPRINGFIELD STREET, FEEDING HILLS, MASS.

Agawam Lions Hold Summer Cookout...



LIONS CLUB MEMBERS Jim Votzakis and Jim Taupier at the Polish Club. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine



Tag Sale/Car Wash/Bake Sale/Raffle
The Agawam Senior Games Athletes will hold a
tag sale, car wash, bake sale, raffle, and Chinese
auction at the Agawam Senior Center on Saturday, September 11th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
The tag sale items will also feature new items

such as balloons, kites, Halloween items, Bubble Fish, etc. There will be grab bags, coffee, donuts, and many irresistibly tasty items on the bake

Come visit with the athletes, have your car washed while you browse at the tag sale, have some coffee and donuts, and participate in the raffle and Chinese auction. This is a very special raffle of an afghan crocheted for ASGA by Dian Curran's mom, and a treasure box done by the famous postage stamp artist Jim Butman.

Mr. Butman has postage stamp paintings in the Smithsonian and in the Ripley Museums worldwide. This postage stamp box is a valuable item and will only get more valuable as time goes on. Whoever wins the raffle will surely own a

The Chinese auction consists of handmade crocheted aprons, Hummel stationery, welcome signs, etc.

Our car washes continue to draw many people because the athletes are careful to do a super job on all of the cars. We are looking forward to seeing many townspeople on September 11th. For more information, call Vi Presz at 786-3164

or Angelo Polumbo at 786-5648.

Trip To Mohegan Sun The Agawam Senior Games Athletes will sponsor a trip to Mohegan Sun on Monday, September

The price will be \$16 and will include gratuities. Mohegan Sun will offer a \$10 meal ticket and a

\$10 free play on the big wheel.
We are looking forward to a full bus and a day of fun with our friends. To obtain a ticket, please call Edie Chiba at 786-5539 or Vi Presz at 786-3164, or

obtain a ticket at the Senior Center. We will leave the Senior Center at 8:00 a.m., arriving at Mohegan Sun at approximately 9:30 a.m. We will leave Mohegan Sun at 4:00 p.m. sharp, arriving home at approximately 5:30 p.m.

All tickets must be paid for a week in advance, or the organization reserves the right to resell the

Check our classified pages for all the hometown news



IN MID-AUGUST AT THE Polish Club, the Agawam Lions Club held its summer cookout (a.k.a. the "Tail Twister's Party"). IN TOP PHOTO: chefs George Collins, Bob Cecchi, and Charles Calabrese. IN PHOTO BELOW: standing — William Barton, Tom Dacey, Ralph Zavarella, and Joseph Zabielski; seated — Bob Farrell, Christopher Johnson, and Glenn Olson. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



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Our Own Melons & Corn

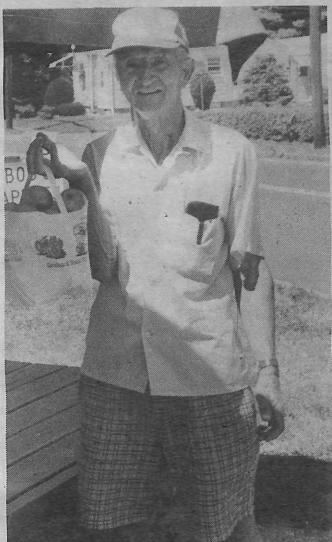
F•R•E•S•H from our Fields:

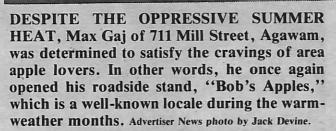
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An Apple A Day...







DAVID P. YOUNG & MARY M. POTTER

Mary Margaret Potter Is Engaged To Wed David P. Young

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald T. Potter of Feeding Hills are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Margaret Potter, to David P. Young, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Young of East Longmeadow.

Ms. Potter is a graduate of Cathedral High School, St. Joseph College, and Western New England College School of Law. She is an attorney with Hartford Life Insurance in Simsbury, CT.

Mr. Young is a graduate of East Longmeadow High School and Holyoke Community College. He is a territory manager for Ecolab, Inc. A June 9, 2000 wedding is planned.

MR. & MRS. GREGORY M. PUDLO

Gina A. Milillo And Gregory M. Pudlo United In Marriage

Gina Anne Milillo and Gregory Michael Pudlo exchanged wedding vows on July 24, 1999 in Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills.

Terriann Polumbo attended the bride as maid of honor. Brian Cole served the bridegroom as best man.

A reception was held following the ceremony at La Renaissance in South Windsor, CT. The couple honeymooned on an Eastern Caribbean Cruise.

The bride is the daughter of Nick and Genie Milillo of Feeding Hills. She graduated from Quinnipiac College, Hamden, CT, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She is employed as a Spanish teacher at Peabody High School in Peabody, MA.

The groom is the son of Ron and Pam Pudlo of Feeding Hills. He graduated from New Hampshire College, Manchester, New Hampshire. He is employed as a business transient sales manager for Starwood Hotels in Wakefield, MA.

The couple now resides in Salem, MA.

Army Pfc. Larry L. Hoague Begins Basic Military Training

Army Pfc. Larry L. Hoague, Jr. has arrived at Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia, to complete basic military training.

During the training, the soldier will receive instruction in drill and ceremonies, map reading, tactics, military customs and courtesies, physical fitness, and first aid.

Hoague is the son of Larry L. Hoague of 76 Oak Lane, Feeding Hills.

Polish Club Women's Auxiliary To Meet On Monday, Sept. 13th

The Women's Auxiliary of the Polish American Club of Agawam will hold its next meeting on Monday, September 13th.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Please remember that our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter ... AAN!!!

Our Next Generation At Giovanni's Italian Pastries Adele Russo



Giovanni Russo, 21/2, with his new sister, Adele.

Born: Fourth Of July Height: 19 Inches Weight: 7½ Pounds

Proud Parents: Tony And Teresa Russo

719 Main Street Agawam Center

The Best In Italian Pastries, Cakes, Cookie Trays, And Much More

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Church News



THE CHEFS served over 550 hamburgers and 240 hot dogs at St. John the Evangelist's Parish Picnic on Sunday, August 29th. From left to right: Mike Paine, Rich Prout, and Kevin Paine. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



FATHER BILL LUNNEY (left), a priest at St. John the Evangelist Church on Main Street, enjoys a conversation with John Zebryk, a eucharistic minister and active parishioner at St. John's. During the Parish Picnic, Father Bill had a balloon painted on his face by Christine Haire. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Parishioners Frolic At Annual Picnic At St. John The Evangelist Church

by Kathy Shepard Feature Editor

The weather rewarded picnic-goers of St. John the Evangelist Church. For the first time in many years, the annual parish picnic was held at St. John's Church Field on Leonard Street, across from the church's rear parking lot. Sunny and warm, the day delivered the perfect stage for jokes, fun, food, friends, and a picnic enjoyable to all who attended.

The picnics were held at the parish field some 25 years ago, but when the field was vandalized and repairs were not feasible, the picnic was held at the VFW on South Street in Agawam. "It's great to be back at our own field," said Father Bill Lunney, who took the opportunity to converse with some parishioners and took part in several drawings, activities, and games.

A colorful balloon was decorated on Father Bill's face, painted by Christine Haire. He, in turn, decorated the face of Elizabeth Haire with a rainbow. There was a booth for face-painting, and there were lots of colorful motifs on the assembled merry-makers' visages. There was a Chinese auction, an ice cream booth run by the Andersons, and a 50/50 drawing overseen by the Demarests.

and a 50/50 drawing overseen by the Demarests.

John Polopek urged people to drive a few golf balls, practice their putting, or both, and Peg Altobelli and her crew really did a good job handling the ticket booth. There were clowns, a fish pond, the coffee table, and great companionship.

Each year, Jim Fenton of Fenton's Athletic Supplies delights children at St. John's Picnic with rides in a pint-size "train." Engineer Fenton pulls the "cars" with a lawn mower for an engine. The entire vehicle is painted to look exactly like a train, and Fenton steers it around the field hour after hour, pleasing every child in the crowd.

after hour, pleasing every child in the crowd.
Coupons were sold for food (hotdogs, hamburgs, chips, soda, ice cream) and raffles. There were drawings for donated goods, such as games and teddy bears, and a separate drawing for a jar of money. Father Howard McCormick (pastor) announced each number with style, a bundle of energy with his red tan, deep voice, and Irish sense of humor. Both Father Lunney and Father Howard have great sense of humor, to the benefit of the entire parish.

Storytelling, Magic, & Humor
Storyteller Paul Sutton of Agawam and TV-40
fame, enraptured the parish children (and some
adults) with his storytelling, and there was a
magic show given by Wayne Ball, who also amused the horde. The epitome of hilarity and high
spirits, Father Howard had a joke at the tip of his
tongue every moment. It was Father Howard who
created the highly entertaining "Dunking Pool"
about five years ago and has donated his own per-

son as "dunkee" each year.

This year, Father Howard took turns with other "victims" getting dropped into the pool. Father announced, "I didn't drown in the drink, but the kids are improving their aim. And it got a little cold when Mariann Green put ice in the water."

when Mariann Green put ice in the water."

Mariann Green was appointed chairwoman of the picnic by Father Howard. "We were very excited because this is our first year back at St. John's Field. This is one of the largest crowds we have had in years, and we are thrilled to see lots of adolescents and college kids joining in. There were at least 85 people who helped put this picnic together. The Singles Club and the Women's Club helped a lot, and Pat Drewnoski and her family

Church. "Starting in November, there will be one year of training for a core group of youths and adults of the parish. Judy Cross, head of the Parish Council, and I are coordinators of this. Today, we got started getting information out, like posters, buttons, pins, and we did a "TUG OF LOVE" and played volleyball."

According to Father Howard, "Mariann Green got it all together. She did the decorations; put everything together. She did a great job."

were very instrumental in making the picnic such a huge success," Mrs. Green told us.

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER Member FDIC/DIF All Deposits Insured In Full

games, told us excitedly of the efforts that have been made to develop a youth group at St. John's

For the parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Church, there is no time like the present to make the most of the bonds of friendship and activities to be found in this parish. The picnic was a great success and is a harbinger of even more enjoyable occasions in the future. Father Lunney is gratified to see St. John's Field being used again. "I hope we see many picnics in future years and more activities that will bring the parishioners together as they have been today."



Summertime Fun At St. John's Picnic...







IN LEFT PHOTO: "How do you like my painted face?" asks Allison Little. IN CENTER PHOTO: "Scrappy" with his daughter, Sarah. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Debbie Ransom and her daughter, Christin, enjoyed "clowning around" at St. John's Parish Picnic. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.



Father Howard McCormick with Mariann Green, chairwoman of St. John's Parish Picnic. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Calendar From Ag. Congregational

This Sunday, September 12th, the fall and winter schedule for Church School and Morning Worship will resume at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam.

Church School for the seventh through 12th grades, as well as Confirmation Class, will begin at 9:00 a.m.; Crib Room through the sixth grade will begin at 10:30 a.m. (the same time as the Morning Worship); and Crib Room through the second grade will go to Church School immediately following the Children's Message. Grades three through six will begin Church School downstairs in the Worship Chapel.

The new Interim Pastor, the Rev. Eric W. Bascom, will preside over Holy Communion and will preach a sermon on "First Steps on Forgiving.

The Old Testament reading is Exodus 14:19-31, and the New Testament is Matthew 18:21-35.

The Sanctuary Choir began its fall schedule for rehearsals on Thursday, September 9th, at 7:00

New voices are always welcome. Anyone interested in joining the choir may attend.

The choir is under the direction of the Minister

of Music, Ms. Ellen Cogen.

For more information concerning any of our events, please call the church office at 786-7111.

"Rally Day" Is Set For Sunday, September 12th, At First Baptist Church

A new church school season will begin this Sunday at First Baptist Church, as Rally Day is celebrated. The worship service will begin at 9:30

Reverend Barnes will speak on "God Leads His People," using scriptural text from Exodus 14. Nina Bailey will lead the responsive reading.

"Coffee and Conversation" will be held in Davis Hall immediately following worship. Classes for all ages will be held until 11:45 a.m. Nursery care is provided throughout the morning.

Children in grades one to four are invited to attend Junior Church. These children leave the sanctuary following the children's story at wor-

The Junior Church consists of a Bible story, songs, discussion, and opportunities for offering and prayers. Creative activities follow in Worthington Hall.

The Church School staff for the upcoming

season is:

Chair of the Cradle Roll, Nancy Barber; Nursery Caregiver, Susan Crochetiere; Grades One and Two, Lynn Carra; Grades Three and Four, Linda Chicklas and Nancy Strole; Grades Five and Six, Richard Walker and Harry Durant; Grades Seven and Fight Stocker Rolling Crades Nine there. and Eight, Stephen Bailey; Grades Nine through 12th, Hope Paradysz; and Adult Class, Mercedes Barnes and Marianne Tompkins.

In addition, a pastor's class entitled "Nuts & Bolts Christianity" (dealing with Baptist beliefs and practices) will again be held.

See the pastor if you are interested in attending this class.

The Trading Post, a consignment shop located in Davis Hall, will be open for business on Wednesday, September 15th, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to begin a new season of providing good-as-new used clothing and other useful items at affordable prices.

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News & Notes From F.H. Congregational

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills. Our Sunday morning service of worship begins at 10:00 a.m. and this week will include the dedication of our new organ.

In celebration of Rally Day and the start of our Sunday School year, Rev. Donaldson has given his sermon time for a skit!

The New Testament reading will be Matthew 9:1-13. Ushering will be Charles Horenstein and Sue Strycharz. Andy and Chris Kretschmar will be our acolytes.

Nursery care will be provided for the very

Please join us following worship on September 12th for a picnic to celebrate the beginning of our Sunday School year. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided by the Board of Christian Educa-

Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Join us for a "welcome back" party!

This coming Sunday is Open Pantry Sunday. If you are able to bring a bag of groceries or other needed items, please place them on the Open Pantry table in the sanctuary.

If you are unable to do so, there will be envelopes available on the Open Pantry collection table for each denations. Many thanks to

table for cash donations. Many thanks to everyone for your continuing support!

Reminder that our first Movie Night of the

season is scheduled for Friday, September 17th, in Griswold Hall at 7:00 p.m. Movies appropriate for the entire family will be enjoyed.

All children are invited to come and bring a friend, along with a pillow and a blanket if desired. Snacks will be provided.

Several children do arrive at church early because their parents have obligations prior to the start of worship. The CE Board would like to provide opportunities for these children to help with projects and have some fun during this time.

If your children are among those arriving between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m., please let Lynn Hill (782-6794) or Lani Kretschmar (786-9025) know so that arrangements may be made.

There will be a meeting of the CROP Walk Committee on Monday, September 13th, at 7:00 p.m. The walk is sponsored this year by the Agawam Parish Association and all interested in helping are encouraged to attend the meeting.

On the calendar:

Saturday, September 11th: 7:30 a.m., CE sponsored trip to Plimoth Plantation; 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., Operation Friendship dinner.

Sunday, September 12th: 10:00 a.m., Open Pantry/Rally Day; All Church Picnic following worship; 12:00 to 8:00 p.m., Church of Redemption

Monday, September 13th: 7:00 p.m., CROP; 7:00 p.m., Trustees.

Tuesday, September 14th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.; 7:00

p.m., Stewardship/Missions.

Wednesday, September 15th: 6:30 p.m., Music Committee; 7:00 p.m., Choir.

Thursday, September 16th: Newsletter deadline; 7:00 p.m., A.A.

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Twenty-Three Couples Participated...

"Celebration Of Marriage" At St. **Anthony's Church**

On Sunday, August 29th, 23 couples celebrated their vocation and lives as husband and wife. They gathered at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Agawam for Mass and the renewal of the vows (some made 58 years ago).

Following the liturgy, a tree was planted and blessed to stand as a symbol of the continued growth of love and the special gifts they have

found in one another.

A reception followed in the church hall as the couples enjoyed the fellowship and love of family

Catholic Women's Club To Hold "Welcoming Tea"

Please join the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam for their first meeting of the 1999-2000 year and a Welcoming Tea, Monday, September 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center of St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street.

Program Chairwoman Jackie Hayes will present Dr. Barbara Schaedler, Chairwoman of the

sent Dr. Barbara Schaedler, Chairwoman of the Landscaping Design and Management Technol-ogy Program at Springfield Technical Community College.

Dr. Schaedler will tell her story on the Garden of

Chelsie in England.

Hospitality for the evening will be provided by Elaine Smith and her committee. New Members Welcome!

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St. John's Parish **News And Notes**

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

On September 19th at the 9:30 a.m. Mass, we will celebrate Catechetical Sunday. We would invite our teachers to come if they can as we pray for them and commission them in this vital parish ministry.

Regular classes will begin on September 18th.
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

As we get ready to start a new year of religious education, we once more are looking for help with our teaching program. With over 500 students, we try to break down the class size to 10 to 15

One teacher is still needed for grades three, four, five, six, seven, eight, and nine, and two for

If you cannot do it on a regular basis, maybe on ready/reserve substitute roster. Please call Father Howard, Father Bill, or Annette Reynolds (our new CCD Coordinator) at 786-8105.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will be held here at St. John's on

Monday night, October 18th, at 7:00 p.m.
ST. JOHN'S OVER-60 CLUB
The Club's first trip is Thursday, October 7th, traveling to Plymouth for the Cranberry Harvest. Bus will leave St. John's at 8:00 a.m. and return at

7:30 p.m. Grand buffet lunch at John Carver Inn. Cost: \$47. For reservations, call Lil at 789-9586 or Barbara at 569-9830.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB

The Catholic Women's Club is ready to start its new season and invites the Catholic women of Agawam to join them at a Welcome Tea on

September 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.
Barbara Schaedler, PhD, head of the Horticultural Department at STCC, will speak on the Gardens of Chelsie in England. Come join them! **BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

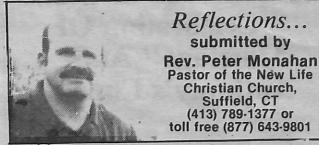
One of the many groups which contribute to the smooth running of our parish is the Grounds Committee. Kevin Hourihan is chairman of this team, which oversees the ongoing maintenance of the physical plant, and either forms work details itself or seeks bids from contractors when needed.

If anyone is interested in joining the group, there is always room. Call Kevin or Father Howard at 786-8105.

RCIA

Are you or is someone you know interested in looking into becoming a member of the Catholic church? We will soon be starting the new pro-

Inquiries are welcome. Call Sister Mary Clare at 786-4499 or Father Howard at 786-8105.



Jesus Implores Us To Forgive...

Many years ago, I worked for a large company in an entry-level position in a menial department. The department manager was one of those unfortunate people you'd feel sorry for, except that I had the misfortune of having to report to him. He was a miserable person, so he made my life

One day, the manager accused me of a serious wrongdoing which could have cost me my job. Shortly afterward, I was absolved of any wrongdoing when it was discovered that a secretary had erred instead.

I was left furious by the event. I pondered how I was going to get back at the department manager. After I'd thought about it long and hard, I decided I would go around a few of the supervisors over us and register a complaint directly with one of the vice-presidents I was friendly with. I hoped my manager would be fired.

It was at that point that I had a direct and distinct communication from God. A voice inaudible to my outward ears but speaking clearly to my inner ears said, "Forgive him." Years later, I came to realize that we can sometimes recognize God's voice because as often as not He's saying something to us we'd rather not hear. "Forgive him" was definitely something I did not want to hear at that moment!

Somehow or other, I must have realized it was God who was speaking to me. However, being rather full of myself, I argued back. I explained to the Almighty that in this particular instance, I was entirely in the right while my manager was entirely wrong. "Forgive him," He said again. It was immediately apparent to me that God needed a fur-

ther explanation.
"I did nothing wrong," I said. "I don't owe him anything. He has nothing to trade for my forgiveness. He has nothing to give me, and I don't like him.

God spoke again: "I did nothing wrong either, ever. I never owed you anything. You never had anything to trade with Me for My forgiveness. But I forgave you anyway.'

Forgiveness is one of those things which is easy to talk about, but really hard to do. Even Jesus' disciples struggled with the topic of forgiveness.

When they spoke about it with Jesus one day, Peter asked how many times a person might be expected to forgive another. Perhaps in an attempt to impress Jesus, or perhaps trying to come in with a number nobody else would dare top, Peter guessed, "Up to seven times?"

We might agree that sounds like a lot of forgiveness for any one person, but not so to Jesus. Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but 70 times seven."

God must think it is important to forgive others. He not only insists that we forgive others, He has even declared that He will not forgive us if we refuse to obey His command.

Jesus explained God's perspective with the

following parable:
"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him 10,000 talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity, canceled the debt, and let him go.

"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him 100 denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could repay the debt.

'When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said. 'I cancelled your debt because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger, his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured until he should pay back all he owed. This is how My heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.'

When we hold grudges, we live in bondage of them ourselves. Often, those we're angry at either don't even remember, or care, or both. First, forgiveness is a decision, and then sometimes a process. It's sometimes very difficult, but it's always worth the effort.

Jesus implores each of us, "Forgive, as the Lord forgave you."

Rev. Peter Monahan's "Reflections..." is a regular feature of the ADVERTISER NEWS.



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St. David's Church To Sponsor Y2K **Public Forum**

by Kathy Shepard

On September 15th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., St. David's Church in Feeding Hills will sponsor a town-wide Public Forum on the Y2K problem. Reverend Len Cowan hopes to initiate "a thoughtful conversation about what preparations are being made locally to deal with any difficulties which this computer glitch may bring in the year 2000.

Public officials and those in industries and utilities that "support the public infrastructure" are being asked to bring their perspective to the discussion. After an introduction by Reverend Cowan, the program will feature five-minute presentations from representatives and officials.

These invited representatives have been asked to address three questions in their presentation and will, hopefully, be giving a "thumbnail

sketch" of their plans:

1. As you see it, what might be the impact of the Y2K problem in your particular area of public service or infrastructure?

2. What preparations have you and/or your organization or company made to deal with the Y2K problem? What kind of preparations do you think still need to be made?; and

3. What contingency plans have you and/or your organization developed to deal with more serious aspects of the Y2K problem?

The general public is invited and there will be a question and answer period for the audience. The program will not have relgious overtones, but the idea of neighbor helping neighbor will be a theme.

Jeffrey Hobart, Y2K coordinator for the town, Police Chief Robert Campbell, State Senator Linda Melconian, and various representatives from the Fire Department, Western Mass. Electric Company, and Gail Freeman from the Agawam Senior Center will be in attendance. Tony Albro, Civil Defense coordinator for Agawam, has been invited, as well as a representative from the banking industry and someone from the Red Cross.

Reverend Cowan hopes that constructive plans will result from this forum, identifying which institutions have generating capabilities, for instance, and contingency plans if there should be problems with water. "We want to be prepared sensibly. The dangers with Y2K are to do nothing. or to have hysteria. This forum will provide an interesting time to see what is being done. We are talking at the local level, trying to prepare for any unforeseen problems with our own emergency preparedness plan at the local level," he explain-

The New Year comes in during cold weather, so there might be discussions about contingencies for supplies of blankets and heat sources. Discussions and fallback plans for transportation and means of checking on the elderly and house-bound neighbors might be another topic for future exploration

Those who have studied Y2K problems have had concerns about what are known as "kill dates." Some experts have believed that on pardates." Some experts have believed that on particular dates, the computers would not function properly. Some "kill dates" were 4/9 or 4/19 and 9/9/99. Reverend Cowan explained that some computes use 9/9/99 as a code to "quit." Most machines so far have reacted properly, however.

Reverend Cowan pointed out that fiscally, we already are in the year 2000. "The end of June 1999 was the end of 1999's fiscal year, and to my knowledge, there have not been any problems."

knowledge, there have not been any problems

anywhere with computers. Many institutions, such as the Federal Aviation Administration, push back their dates of completion, and this might seem negative. But they are all continuously working on the problem. The problems being prepared for are more extensive than originally anticipated, but there is a good chance everyone will be "Y2K compliant" by the year

Western Massachusetts Electric Consumer News reports that "Our mission-critical systems are Year 2000 Ready." Mission-critical refers to "systems related to safety, keeping the lights on, meeting regulatory requirements, and those with significant financial impact."

There are national sources of information; for instance, the National Institute of Standards and Technology at 800-925-7557. But most experts agree that the preparations at the local level are the significant ones, according to Reverend

With foresight and planning, through public forums such as the one planned for on September 15th at St. David's Church, there could be contingencies in place for most problems relating to Y2K well before they have a chance to become very serious.



REVEREND LEN COWAN makes plans for the Public Forum on Y2K to be held at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, on September 15th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



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Saying Good-Bye To Reverend Fuller...



STANDING: Robert Fuller, Shelly Lynne Lamontagne, and Dana Fuller. SEATED: Louise and Reverend Curt Fuller. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



ENJOYING THEMSELVES AT Reverend Fuller's farewell dinner are Grace Tilden, Carol Treganowan, and Dot Coon. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1999 at: 6:30 P.M., for all parties interested in the petition of BILL & JOAN BESSETTE, who are seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-17 of the Zoning Ordinances to allow for the construction of a second floor addition to the existing single family residential structure at the premises identified as: 21 CHANNELL DRIVE.

Doreen Prouty, Acting Chairperson Published: September 9, 1999

ADVERTISER NEWS



ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 21ST, at First Baptist Church, a dinner was held for Reverend Curt Fuller of Agawam Congregational Church and his family. Reverend Fuller is now the pastor of a church in San Diego, CA. Standing: Esther and Ed Straszko. Seated: Nancy, Eleanor, Jackie, and Barry Toussaint. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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Spotlight On Business

Parrotta's Auto Repair & Sales Puts On A New Face

by Kathy Shepard Feature Editor

Parrotta's Auto Repair & Sales has made some major modifications and improvements to the 357 Main Street, Agawam location across from Valenti's Pizza. "We redid the office and removed all the shelves with that 'gas station look," owner and operator Peter Parrotta chuckled.

"We put wood paneling on the office walls, bought new desks, added carpet, and got a computer system," Peter added. This is an appropriate time for modification, for Parrotta's Auto Repair & Sales will celebrate its 25-year Jubilee in the year 2000!

The outside of the building was painted, a new sign was put up, and some bright, pretty flowers border the station, planted by Peter's wife, Linda. "She does flower gardening for Veterans' Day and Memorial Day every year, and we are proud to have won several beautification awards from the Town of Agawam," Peter mentions proudly.

Some other changes were due to the new inspections system. "This has required that we remove the lifts from the third bay because the requirements state that an entire bay has to be available for inspections. This is a dynamometer system, hooked up to a computer. The system has rollers which act like a treadmill and simulates actual driving, but the car stays stationary," Peter explains.

The "21-Day Visit"

As a young man, Peter came to the United States for a "21-day visit" on a ticket paid for by his uncle, Pasquale Valenti, who is the founder of Valenti's Pizza. All of Peter's relatives were already here except his mother and four sisters, who still reside in Turen, Italy. When Peter went visiting one night with his Uncle Pasquale, he met Linda, who soon became his wife. "I saw her and that was it," he reminisces. So his "21-day visit" turned into a permanent stay.

Uncle Pasquale is special to him for many reasons, but especially because in 1967, Peter's mom was dying in Italy. Pasquale, who had come to the United States in 1934, returned to Italy for a time, and his visit revived Peter's mother. She lived to visit America seven times.

Peter speaks with a pleasant, almost melodious tone, his warmth and appreciation of his family evident. Peter and Linda have three children who are all married. Last year, their son, Jerry, married Christine in June; daughter, Mary, married Nino Manes in July; and son, Bruno, married Shayna in August. Bruno has been with Peter at the repair station since about the age of 13 and loves all the work.

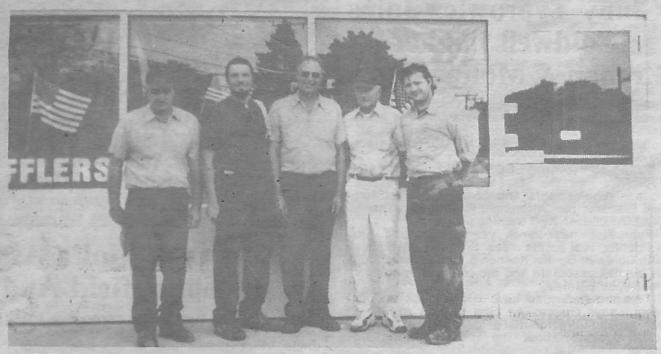
The Tradition Continues

Bruno plans to continue in the tradition of repairs at the shop. After graduating from Cathedral High School in 1987, he obtained technical training in Dedham, Mass. He and Shayna are expecting their first baby. Peter is proud to say that Bruno, now at the age of 30, is his main mechanic, keeping up with all the new technologies.

Peter also credits his wife's mother, Mary Melloni, and five brothers-in-law for their help in getting started in business. He praises those who have given him loyalty and support. "Brother-in-law Richard Melloni worked side-by-side with me from 1984-1991. Brother-in-law Ed works part-time in maintenance and all shop needs. We needed a sink in a bay. Ed built us a fortress," Peter recalled.

SEE PARROTTA'S - Page 24...

PARROTTA'S AUTO REPAIRS-SALES



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Freddie Trimboli, Bruno Parrotta, Peter Parrotta, Ed Melloni, and Jimmy Lajoie standing under the new sign at Parrotta's Auto Repair & Sales on Main Street, Agawam. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



PETER PARROTTA met wife-to-be Linda on a "21-day trip to America." She has been a big help to him in business and in life. In the photo above, Linda Parrotta is shown fixing flowers in front of Parrotta's Auto Repair & Sales. She plants them in honor of Memorial Day and tends them for the beauty they give all year. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

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Spotlight On Business - continued...

PARROTTA'S - from Page 23...

Another steadfast employee, Freddie Trimboli from Agawam, has been with Parrotta's for over 23 years. Talk about loyalty! And Jimmy LaJoie joined the group 2½ years ago as a mechanic.

Peter Parrotta takes pride in his business for service, repairs, and for offering good, dependable cars, especially Saabs and Volvos. The prices are surprisingly reasonable, and Parrotta's Auto Repair & Service has built a reputation of standing behind their cars.

There is a lot to offer from a business with such a long-standing track record and such dependable people. Best of all, this is a service station with recent upgrades, improving the appearance and contributing to the beauty of this section of the Town of Agawam.

Ginny Typrowicz Joins Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Assoc.

Ginny Typrowicz has joined Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Associates as a full-time sales associate working out of the Agawam office, according to Barry Boccasile, V.P. of Corporate Development.

Prior to joining COLDWELL BANKER, Typrowicz met the Massachusetts real estate license requirements and completed FastStart and Discover the Difference, the comprehensive COLDWELL BANKER training programs.

Typrowicz has seven years' experience in residential real estate sales. She was previously with Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Associates as a sales associate and project coordinator for Rosewood Estates.

"We are happy to have Ginny back on our team," says Boccasile. "She has an excellent background in residential sales, and is extremely knowledgeable about the greater Springfield market."

Typrowicz can be reached at (413) 789-9890 or (413) 750-0946.

For more than 90 years, COLDWELL BANKER has been the country's premier full-service provider of real estate services. Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation, a subsidiary of Cendant Corporation (NYSE:CD), franchises nearly 3,000 independently owned and operated real estate offices with more than 70,000 sales associates throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and Singapore.

The company is an industry leader in residential real estate, luxury and resort home sales, and commercial real estate through its COLDWELL BANKER COMMERCIAL division.

The company's award-winning web site is located at www.coldwellbanker.com.



THE EXTERIOR OF Parrotta's Auto Repair & Sales, located at 357 Main Street in Agawam. Owner and operator Peter Parrotta is proud of the modifications and improvements that have taken place at his business. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Keenan & Molta Associates Recognizes Its Springfield And Agawam Offices

Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation has announced that Keenan & Molta Associates' Springfield office ranked first in the category of Buyer Controlled Sales, and the Agawam office ranked first in the category of Listings Sold. "Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Associates

"Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Associates exemplifies the standards of excellence for which COLDWELL BANKER offices are known," said Robert Romanowski, Regional Director for Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation. "It is an honor to recognize Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Associates as one of the top Coldwell Banker brokers in the state of Massachusetts."

This is quite an achievement, as they are one out of 1,454 offices in the Northeast Region.

COLDWELL BANKER KEENAN & MOLTA ASSOCIATES is the largest, locally-owned real estate company in Western Massachusetts, the second-largest real estate company in the greater Springfield area, and the principal broker for Cendant Mobility, the largest relocation company in the world

Six offices and approximately 80 sales associates provide comprehensive home-selling, home-buying, mortgage, and relocation services to the greater Springfield area.

Please remember that our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter ... AAN!!!

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Coupon expires September 24, 1999.

Spotlight On Business - continued...



Timely Tips On How To Manage Your Finances

by Sue & Charlie Alvanos Personal Financial Advisors American Express 534-3883

Get The Facts About Choosing Employee Benefits...

The coming of autumn signals many changes: leaves begin to fall, kids go back to school, coats are pulled out of storage, and your employee

benefits come up for reexamination.

During a period called "open enrollment," many companies give employees an opportunity to choose options for their health care and dependent of the companies of their health care and dependent of the companies of their health care and other heafits. dent care coverage, insurance, and other benefits for the next year, possibly including retirement plan benefits. Because your selections may have a big impact on your present and future finances, you should carefully consider how the choices

you make will help you achieve your goals.
While your situation and benefits choices will likely differ from those of your co-workers, there are common questions asked about benefits choices. These include:

Q. Why should I contribute to my company's 401(k) retirement plan?

A. Your 401(k) helps your retirement dollars grow in several ways that make it a high priority in your investment plan. First, taxes on both your contributions and investment earnings are deferred until you withdraw the money, most likely at retirement. Without the steady drag of taxes over time, your money may grow faster than an invest-ment that's taxed year after year. When you withdraw at retirement, you may be in a lower tax bracket than you are now.

Second, equal contributions deducted from your paycheck at regular intervals help you benefit from a strategy called dollar-cost averag-ing which allows you to buy more shares of an investment when prices are low and fewer when prices are high. Over time, this strategy can lower your average share price of an investment. Of course, dollar-cost averaging does not ensure a profit or protect you againt a loss in declining markets. And because the benefits are realized over time, you should be prepared to continue investing during periods of low and high prices.

Q. How much should I contribute to my 401(k)? A. Your employer may encourage your participation by matching your contributions to the account. Typical company matches range from 25 percent to 50 percent and even 100 percent of employee contributions up to a certain amount. Essentially, this represents an instant return on your investment so you should consider investing enough to get the full company match. Matching contributions may be subject to vesting requirements as described below.

Q. How do I choose investments within my 401(k)?
A. Most company plans offer at least a basic selection of investments such as stocks, bonds, and money market securities - usually in the form of mutual funds. Your company should provide detailed information on each of these choices. In choosing the best investments for you, consider your goals, time frame, risk

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Moving to a new home or a new community doesn't have to be a stressful experience. Here are some tips to help make your move a little

. Talk about the move with all family members. Encourage children to express their feelings and expectations about the move.

Include all family members in every stage of the moving process - from planning and organiz-

ing to the actual moving day. Take time to say good-byes to special friends.
 Celebrate the good times together and take time

to say thanks. · Call the Chamber of Commerce or tourist office in your new community to find out about

places of interest, activities, and special events. Help your family settle into your new home by inviting best friends from the old neighborhood to visit. Have a garage sale for all the stuff that doesn't fit - a great way to meet new neighbors.

· Keep in touch with your friends, by letter or

tolerance — as well as other retirement investments you may have in IRAs or other accounts. For example, a person who has 30 years until retirement may want to invest in a portfolio with more long-term growth investments; whereas, a person with only five years until retirement may want to choose a more conservative portfolio of investments. A knowledgeable financial advisor can help you match your 401(k) choices to your goals.

Q. What does the term "vested" mean?

A. You become eligible to own (or are vested in) some company benefits gradually as your years of service accumulate. Company matches to 401(k)s, employee stock ownership plans, and pension plans are examples of benefits employees are often entitled to after becoming vested. This can be immediate or take a number of years, depending on the company's plan. Once vested, you own the benefits and can take them (or cash value) when you leave the company.

Q. What's the benefit of a health care reimbursement

A. Health care reimbursement accounts let you pay for qualified medical expenses using income that has not been taxed. Here's how they work: Once a year you decide how much of your salary you want to set aside for the next year's anticipated eligible medical expenses. Most accounts let you set aside from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per year, and eligible expenses can include such things as health care deductibles, physicals your insurance doesn't cover, prescription eyeglasses and contacts, and even transportation to your doctor. The money is deducted from your paycheck in equal installments before taxes; when you incur an expense, you submit a claim form to your benefits office for reimbursement.

Q. What happens to any money in my health care reimbursement account that I haven't used by the end of

A. You lose any funds set aside in a health care reimbursement account that are not used during the year. So it's important to accurately estimate your medical expenses for the next year and not set aside more than you'll need.

Q. Are flexible spending accounts available for other

A. Many employers make similar accounts available for employees' dependent care expenses. These "dependent care accounts" let you set aside up to \$5,000 pre-tax for daycare, preschool, and summer camp for kids under 13. You also can use the account to pay for some types of care for a parent who is dependent on you. As with health care reimbursement accounts, you lose any funds set aside in a dependent care account that are not used during the

These are only some of the questions you may have about benefits decisions during open enrollment. Your employee benefits office is a good place to start in understanding specifics about your company benefits. A trusted financial advisor can help you review your overall financial picture so you can select the benefit options that appear best for your objectives.

To Acquire A.J. Agan Agency...

Woronoco Bancorp Will Be Offering **Insurance Products**

Woronoco Bancorp, Inc. (the "Company") (AMEX:WRO), the holding company for Woronoco Savings Bank (the "Bank"), plans to add insurance products to its list of financial products and services.

Woronoco Bancorp, Inc. announced recently that the Bank has signed a letter of intent to acquire A.J. Agan Insurance Agency, Inc. The agency will operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of Woronoco Savings Bank. By agreement of the parties, the terms of the deal were not announced.

We must move on these opportunities as they arise because they are in the best interest of our customers and shareholders," said Cornelius D. Mahoney, Chairman, President and CEO of Woronoco Savings Bank. "Offering insurance products through our branch network brings Woronoco Savings Bank one step closer to realizing our goal of being a provider of a full array of life cycle financial services to our customers.

A.J. Agan Insurance conducts business in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, the same market area as the bank. The agency was founded in 1922 in Westfield. "Our plan is to enhance Agan's current product offerings and continue to provide great pricing," Mahoney said.
The bank expects the acquisition to be ac-

cretive to earnings. The agency services more than 4,000 customers. Approximately 75 percent of Agan's current business consists of personal insurance lines, with commercial and other insurance products making up the remaining 25 per-

"We are very pleased to enter into this agreement with Woronoco Savings Bank and look forward to watching our company grow to serve the needs of our combined customer base," said Archie Agan, Jr., owner of A.J. Agan Insurance. The insurance agency will continue to operate under its own name and remain at the same location. Mahoney expects to retain the agency's existing staff and management team.

The acquisition is subject to due diligence review and all required regulatory approvals. The bank intends to close on the sale in the fourth

quarter of this year.

Woronoco Bancorp, Inc. is a publicly owned savings and loan holding company and the parent corporation of Woronoco Savings Bank, a Massachusetts stock savings bank headquartered at 31 Court Street, Westfield, MA 01085. Woronoco Savings Bank provides a wide variety of traditional and non-traditional financial products and services through its 11 branch offices located throughout Western Massachusetts. For

SEE WORONOCO - Page 26...

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Spotlight On Business - continued...



"Beauty Corner" by Mary Ann Zicolella

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Got A Hair, Nail, Or Beauty Problem? Send Us A Note, And We Will Answer It In Our Column...

Last week, I began the series of "Through The Years" of hair care. I covered children, teens, and twenties. Now I will continue adding a few beauty hints.

PART TWO

Thirties phase of life is still a busy one. The biggest complaint we receive with women of this age is that hair is losing its thickness and shine. Many women run and grab a bottle of color and then realize it wasn't what they were looking for.

realize it wasn't what they were looking for.

We suggest some subtle highlights a few shades lighter and cutting in some soft angles around the face. If hair seems limp, some shorter layers in the top and crown may help give some "lift."

Paul Mitchell's Sculpting foam or volumnizing spray are a great boost for this problem. You may even want to texturize your hair with a soft perm wave. Those women with unruly curls may want to softly retexturize your curls with a mild straightening process that won't completely leave you straight.

Conditioning is a must, even if only on the ends where it usually is most needed. Paul Mitchell also has a full line of conditioners for all your needs and contain UV protection for your delicate crowning glory.

Forties is an age category that makes many people depressed. Relax, it's just a number! We may think 20, but our bodies are still going on with the aging process. Going to extremes trying to look young can give you the opposite effect.

look young can give you the opposite effect.

The is an age when you are truly beautiful and sexy, too! The secret is simply making the best of what you have. Seek professional advice from your stylist on the best looks and colors for you.

Advice is free and a few of our tips are: don't look for a dark tan, a soft bronzer will look more attractive. Avoid shimmery products, they tend to enhance the creases and small lines of the skin. Use moisturizers and products containing them.

Set make-up with silky, finely milled face powder. Touch up lipstick as needed all day, as color will keep you look refreshed instead of tired. Permanent color may be needed as the percent of grey increases.

Use styling aids and shorter cuts for fullness on fine, delicate hair. Soft texturizing moisture perms are our answer if you feel you can't break away from traditional perming. Gentle shampoos, conditioners, and occasional treatments will help maintain healthy-looking locks.

Please look for our final report on "Through The

Years" next week.

A thought for a smile: carving your very own design on a pumpkin for the first time. Remember ... Beauty is our Business!

WORONOCO - from Page 25...

more information regarding the Bank's products and services, and for Woronoco Bancorp, Inc. investor relations information, please visit our website at www.woronoco.com.

Statements contained in this news release, which are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements that are defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements are subject to risk and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those currently anticipated due to a number of factors, which include, but are not limited to, factors discussed in the documents filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission from time to time.

Heide Blackack Earns Honorary Title With PartyLite Gifts

Ranks Among Nation's Top Independent PartyLite Consultants

Heide Blackack of Agawam has been awarded the honorary level of Regional Vice President with PartyLite Gifts, Inc., the world's leading direct sales marketer of candles and candle accessories.

As Regional Vice President, Ms. Blackack ranks among the top one-percent of more than 28,000 independent Consultants with PartyLite nationwide. She leads a group of several Consultants in the state of Massachusetts, as well as others in New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, North Carolina, and Virginia.

Since she began demonstrating PartyLite products as a Consultant in 1995, Ms. Blackack has risen quickly through the ranks of leadership with PartyLite. Managing an independent business, she not only provides customers with expert decorating advice and candle care tips, but also provides training for Consultants on her team.

PartyLite products are sold exclusively via inhome demonstrations using the time-honored party plan method. Setting their own hours and schedules, PartyLite Consultants such as Ms. Blackack demonstrate products in Hostesses' homes, showcasing PartyLite's broad and diverse product line to family, friends, and co-workers. While Hostesses qualify to receive products of their choice at no cost, Consultants receive a percentage of eligible sales as profit. And, as Consultants sponsor new participants, their income opportunities multiply dramatically.

come opportunities multiply dramatically.

Based in Plymouth, MA, PartyLite is a subsidiary of Blyth Industries, Inc., the nation's largest manufacturer of candles for home and commercial use. As the exclusive direct sales



MOTOR VEHICLE NEGLIGENCEDriving While Impaired — Head-On Collision

The plaintiffs were driving their automobile when a car driven by the defendant allegedly swerved across the center line, sideswiped one car, and then rammed head-on into the plaintiffs'

In the accident, one plaintiff suffered fractures to her right ankle and foot in addition to contusions and abrasions. Years after the accident, the plaintiff requires a short-leg walking boot cast. The other plaintiff suffered neck, back, and shoulder pain, and has disfiguring scars on his face and right leg from the accident.

A police officer testified at a deposition that his accident-scene examination of the filaments inside of the bulbs in the defendant's taillights confirmed that the defendant had not been applying her brakes when she rammed the plaintiffs' car

her brakes when she rammed the plaintiffs' car.
The plaintiffs contended that the defendant's ability to drive was impaired and had named the defendant's mother as an additional defendant for permitting her to drive while impaired.

The plaintiffs were awarded a settlement of \$200.000.00.

Attorney Alan L. Ferrigno maintains an office at 546 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Massachusetts. If you have a legal question, Attorney Ferrigno will attempt to address the same in this column. Please send any questions to the address listed above.

Our classified ads cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone. Please bring them to our office at 14 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, or mail them (with payment) to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.



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A Life And Death Transition: Our Fluid Child...

My daughter lay eyes closed on an antiseptic, stainless-steel table with feeding tubes and monitors measuring every drip of fluid going in and out of her fragile body. Only days before, she thrived inside mom's lively juices. Born into our world via emergency c-section, she arrived beautiful, responsive, and healthy ... so we thought

Big brother arrived to share the joy of his little sister by holding her, taking photos, enjoying her being held by daddy, and watching her awkwardly try to latch onto mom's breast. Mom's spinal anesthetic limited their bonding, so dad and big brother shared the holding for mom.

Little sister Julia Gene was named after greatgrandma and grandpa. Julia's heart was malformed and, after only three hours of bonding, the concern heightened. She was soon taken away from mom and brother to a special hospital that would (only days later) perform open heart surgery. The split was deeply felt: mom recovering in the hospital, big brother at home with child care, and dad off in another state with his first-born daughter.

Transitions from life to death? This is what my young family faced some eight years ago. I can still remember today how I longed to switch places with Julia. "Take me!" I yelled angrily at God. "Please let her big brother hold her one more time!"

My wife finally made it to the children's hospital for three brief days. A second surgery and kidney failure increased the medications, tubes, monitors, and decreased the urine output. Toxic

build-up doubled her birth weight.

My son and I raced to the hospital to say goodbye. She died en route. We held her and bonded with her for nearly three hours. We cried, took turns holding her, took photos, talked about Julia's tremendous fight for life, and told the story of her never-ending bubbles that talked to us in

her silence.
Some days earlier, I wrote a poem entitled "Bubbles" and later read it at her wake service. Big brother's gift, "Pinky" (a pink stuffed bear), was with Julia every moment. He choose to have Pinky in the casket and, just before saying his final good-bye, he decided he wanted to keep Pinky. Pinky continues to be part of our family.

Pinky in the casket and, just before saying his final good-bye, he decided he wanted to keep Pinky. Pinky continues to be part of our family. We shared our 11-day story with family and friends. Big brother proudly introduced everyone to his little sister in the open casket. We played music, read scripture, sang, had open prayer time, and some powerful silence and bonding. Julia brought so many together.

Last week, I spoke about different points of transition. As with all life and death experiences, we are challenged by the moment. How do you creatively celebrate and mourn, perhaps have to introduce and say good-bye at the same time, yell in anger and seek comfort from the same God and/or face the overwhelming task of trying to care for self while everything and everyone around you pulls at you to do just the opposite?

I think how we introduce RITUAL into the process can make all the difference in the world. Rituals can invite the community **into** the transition experience, so as not to go it alone. Private or public, personal or familial; how transitions are lived out is unique. We are each, I believe, invited to live into the wonder that is uniquely **you!**

What are some of the rituals you've used at important transition points in your life? Let's talk some more about this ... in the meantime, use my NEW e-mail address: AOL screen name: dpmft449 or continue to write me with your feedback, relationship questions, and topics and "Let's Talk about it"

Dan Pender, MA, MFT, is a Marriage & Family Therapist with a private practice in Agawam, MA. He is Clinical member of the American Association of Marriage & Family Therapy and can be reached by e-mail (AOL screen name: dpmft449) or P.O. Box 449, Agawam, MA 01001, (413) 789-4460.



Fitness Tips...

by
Carmela Kirk, R.N.
Fitness Director
Fitness First

Don't Forget Your Old Friends...

One of the very common mistakes we see is a lack of change in the exercise program. This will stop your progress dead in its tracks.

I know we've discussed this before. We've talked about crosstraining and adding and deleting exercises. Let's review a second on why this is important

Remember when you first started exercising? It was a little difficult, your muscles felt the soreness, things were changing. After a while, no matter how good your program was, you got used to it. You reached a plateau where you didn't see results you wanted. So you increased your weights, you ran a little harder, it worked for a while, then it got easier again. Time to change. Start all over with brand new exercises. Get off

Start all over with brand new exercises. Get off the treadmill and ride a bike. Take aerobics once a week and Spin twice a week. If you were doing Cybex, go to the weight room or take Bodypump. Sometimes all this means is reversing your hand grip to incorporate a different part of the muscle. Anything you are doing, stop and change it all. Once again, this will work for a while.

Now, if you exercise for a significant part of your life, you will run out of changes. It's time to remember your old friends. What were some of the exercises you used to do?

Think back to high school; if you ever played sports, what were some of the drills you did? When was the last time you did chin-ups or stretched with a buddy? Be sure if you are going too far back that the exercise is still appropriate and safe.

Think back to some of the exercises you started with. You saw results with those; if you completely stopped doing them, start them back up. When you start a new weight exercise, begin a little lighter — get used to it again.

It's like running into someone you haven't spoken to; you need to catch up before the real fun begins. Speaking of old friends, I wonder how Lynda is doing. I miss laughing with her.

Please remember to patronize your local businesses...

Your Back And Your Health

by Dr. Joseph
S. Schlaffer
Schlaffer
Chiropractic Offices
192 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam

Scoliosis In Children...

I am often asked about chiropractic treatment of scoliosis, especially in children. Children with mild scoliosis treated with

chiropractic adjustments have shown a reduction in their spinal curvature, according to the findings of a three-year, \$143,000 study funded by the Foundation for Chiropractic Education and Research. The researchers were studying the effects of chiropractic procedures on children nine

to 15 years-old with mild idiopathic scoliosis (less than 20 degrees of curvature) with no complicating conditions.

The findings were released in a presentation to the International Conference on Spinal Manipulation last November in Bournemouth, England. This was the first large-scale research ever to study chiropractic care and scoliosis in a pediatric population. Researchers pointed out that the medical community does not offer treatment for spinal curves of less than 20 degrees and indeed often doesn't consider such variance as scoliosis.

Measurable improvements ranged up to several degrees. It is important to note that scoliosis usually worsens during the growing years. Therefore, even halting an adolescent scoliosis is desirable.

These are some important things that may allow you to detect a scoliosis at its beginning so that appropriate treatment can be rendered.

The SCHLAFFER CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE (789-1369) offers a comprehensive screening with appropriate treatment.

"For Your Health" is a weekly feature of The Agawam Advertiser News and is just one more reason why you turn our pages.



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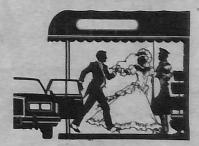
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For Your Health - continued ...

Support Groups, Courses, And Programs Offered By Noble Hospital In Westfield

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous: Sunday evenings, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble

Hospital, 115 West Silver Street, Westfield.
Free of charge. All are welcome.
Stroke Support Group: Wednesday, September 22nd, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. In the Bronson Rehabilitation Center Dining Room at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals recovering from a stroke and their spouses, caregivers, and other interested persons.

Participants are encouraged to suggest topics for future meetings. Call Barbara Boulanger, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W, 568-2811, ext. 5809.

Diabetes: Tuesday, September 28th, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals who have diabetes and their support persons

At this meeting, Jane Martone, D.D.S., M.D., will speak about "Dental Care and Diabetes."
COURSES/PROGRAMS/CLINICS

Free Athletic Injury Clinic: Thursdays, September 16th, and 30th, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. At No-ble Hospital's Sports and Rehabilitation Center, 76 Main Street, Westfield.

On the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of every month, a certified athletic trainer will evaluate athletic injuries. Then, based upon the evaluation, remedial exercises or physician referral may be recommended.

For an appointment, call 562-3522.

Smoking Cessation - "Forgetting Cigarettes"
with Joseph Barako, R.N., Certified Hypnotherapist. Sundays, September 12th and 19th, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. In the Bronson Music Room at Noble Hospital.

This two-part program uses hypnosis to eliminate your desire for smoking and allows you to forget cigarettes forever. The registration fee for this program is \$40 and is paid the evening of the first session.

Seating is limited, and pre-registration is necessary. To pre-register or for more informa-

tion, call Noble Hospital's Health Beat at (413) 568-2328.

Reunion Picnic: In honor of the Bronson Rehabilitation Unit's 10th Anniversary and National Rehabilitation Week (September 12th-18th), the Bronson Rehab Unit at Noble Hospital invites former and current Bronson patients and their families to a "Reunion Picnic" on Monday, September 13th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Picnic to be held on the Mill Street lawn at No-ble Hospital. Please contact the Bronson Rehabilitation Center at (413) 572-5151 if you plan

"Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Sciatica..." (lecture by Scott Cooper, M.D.): Wednesday, September 15th, 6:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

The lecture is free of charge. Seating is limited and advance registration is required.

To register, call Noble Hospital's Health Beat at

CPR Course: Wednesdays, September 15th and 22nd, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. In the Education Department/Ground Floor at Noble Hospital.

This two-part course provides American Heart Association Adult, Child, and Infant Certification. The cost of the course is \$45.

To register or obtain more information, call Noble Hospital's Education Department at (413)

Cosmetic/Plastic Surgery with Dr. Gary Russolillo: Tuesday, September 21st, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. In Conference Room B at Noble Hospital.

Gary Russolillo, M.D., will present a lecture about Body Contouring Surgeries, Lip Enhancements, Facial Surgeries, and Skin Care Procedures. Also included will be a live chemical peel demonstration.

The presentation will be followed by a complimentary personal consultation. Registration is ee, and seating is limited.

Pre-registration is required. To register, call Noble Hospital's Health Beat at (413) 568-2328.

Program On "Natural Medicine And Home Remedies" At Agawam Public Library

Dr. Amy Rothenberg, an Enfield naturopathic physician, will present a program entitled "The Prevention and Treatment of Common Acute II-Inesses with Natural Medicine and Home Remedies," at Agawam Public Library on Thursday, September 16th, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Dr. Rothenberg will share information from her 15 years experience treating patients with effective and general natural medicine. Find out what to keep on hand in your natural medicine first-aid kit. There also will be ample time for the audience to ask questions.

Dr. Rothenberg is a graduate from the National College of Naturopathic Medicine. She is the editor of New England Journal of Homeopathy and lectures widely to both lay and professional audiences on topics of natural medicine. She practices with her husband, Dr. Paul Herscu, in Enfield, Connecticut.

The Agawam Public Library is featuring this distinguished speaker as part of its year-long focus on providing health information to the public. In addition to scheduling interesting speakers, the library has purchased over 300 new health items for the library's collection.

The library's effort to expand its health collection and to inform the public about issues affecting their health is made possible with Federal funds administered through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

The program is free and open to the public. Those interested in attending may register in person at the library, or call (413) 789-1550.

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Read more about this in my FOR YOUR HEALTH column.

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- Parenting and school related issues
- Death, Loss & transitions
- Feminism and men's issues
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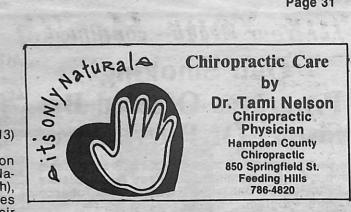
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Daniel Pender, MA., M.F.T. Marriage & Family Therapist OFFICE

NEW IN:

AGAWAM, MA (413) 789-4460 e-mail address: dpmft449@aol.com



PAIN

Pain is a rather subjective experience. It's hard to verbalize pain; it's something you can't see or

One of the hardest parts of my job is to assess one's pain. The description of the type of pain sometimes helps to find out the source of the pain. Numbing, burning, tingling, itching pain is

often caused by nerve irritation.
Sharp, knife-like, piercing pain can be due to inflammation. It's interesting to note that there are as many descriptions of pain as there are people. I've heard pain described as jabbing, stabbing, aching, dull, biting, and even barking. The location varies from behind the eyes to the tip of the toes to right in the middle of the buttocks and everywhere in between.

Pain can be constant, can vary throughout the day, can be worse in the morning and better in the evening or better in the morning and worse as the day goes on. It can happen only at night or it can

not affect sleep at all.

There is still much to learn in regard to people and pain. I've seen x-rays of patients so severe with degeneration that I wonder how they can walk - but they exhibit very little pain. I've seen people with very few clinical symptoms, yet suffer with a great amount of pain. There's so much we don't know or understand - the mind is a very powerful component of healing. Meanwhile, try-ing to understand and get to the cause of the problem is our main focus to provide pain relief.

PAIN CAN BE DEBILITATING. If you are suffering with minor chronic aches or acute stabbing pain, call our office today.

Dr. Nelson maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, 786-4820.

Prostate Screeings At Mercy Hospital

Mercy Hospital is offering free prostate cancer screenings Wednesday, September 22nd from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m. The screenings will be held in the hospital's patient assessment unit, 271 Carew St.

Men ages 50-75 who have no symptoms of prostate cancer, and high risk men ages 35-75 will be screened. Men at high risk include those with a

SEE MERCY HOSPITAL - Page 32...







Polish American Club of Agawam

139 Southwick Street Feeding Hills

(413) 786-0973

BINGO

EVERY TUESDAY 6:45 P.M. DOORS OPEN 4:30 P.M.

TWO WINNER TAKE ALL'S



ALL PAPER GAMES

NON SMOKING SECTION

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For Your Health - continued...

"Ouit Smoking" Programs Offered By Sisters Of Providence

Quitting smoking is tough - but help is available through a free seminar sponsored by the Sisters of Providence Bahavioral HealthCare's Tobacco Control Program.

Two sessions are scheduled: the first on Thursday, Sept. 16th, 6:30 p.m. in Mercy Hospital's Deliso Conference Center, 271 Carew St., Springfield; and the second on Thursday, Sept. 23rd, 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Providence Hospital, 1233 Main St., Holyoke.

Hospital, 1233 Main St., Holyoke.

The program will include information on effective ways to quit smoking, including nicotine replacement therapy. For more information, call the Tobacco Control Program, (413) 493-2039.

The Sisters of Providence Health System (SPHS) is a founding member of Catholic Health East, one of the nation's largest health care systems. Catholic Health East facilities serve communities in eastern states from Maine to Florida Florida.

The SPHS' member organizations provide hospital and ambulatory care, rehabilitation, behavioral health services, nursing home care, retirement living, employee health services, home care, and more.

Please patronize your local businesses...

MERCY HOSPITAL - from Page 31...

family history of prostate cancer or who are African-American or Hispanic. No one currently under a urologist's care may participate. The prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test will be offered.

The screening takes place during the 10th annual Prostate Cancer Awareness Week. In 1999, an estimated 179,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and more than 37,000 will die from it. Early prostate cancer usually does not have any symptoms and is difficult to detect without testing. When detected early, there are many treatment options available.

To scheduled a screening appointment, call Mercy Hospital, (413) 748-9044, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 2:00-4:00 p.m.

The Sisters of Providence Health System (SPHS) is a founding member of Catholic Health Fast, one of the nation's largest health care.

East, one of the nation's largest health care systems. Catholic Health East facilities serve communities in eastern states from Maine to

The SPHS' member organizations provide hospital and ambulatory care, rehabilitation, behavioral health services, nursing home care, retirement living, employee health services, home

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3rd Annual **AHS** Cheerleader Golf Tournament

On: Saturday, October 2nd 12:30 P.M. Shotgun Start

At: Oak Ridge Golf Club 850 South Westfield Street Feeding Hills, MA 01030



Cost: \$60.00 Per Person - Scramble Format Includes 18 Holes Of Golf, Cart, Prizes, And A Cookout Immediately After Golf.

Win A Complete New Set Of Golf Clubs With A Hole In One! ... Or ... Try Your Luck In The Longest Drive Contest Or Closest To The Pin!

Check-in starts at 11:30. Please be there no later than 12:00 noon! Rain or shine! If you have any questions, please call Sandi at 789-2709 or Ken at 733-0867. Additional applications are also available.

Please fill in below and mail with check payable to AHS Cheer Golf, C/O 78 Nicole Terrace, Feeding Hills, MA 01030. Please put Attn. Dave in lower left-hand corner. We are requesting that all sign-ups and money be turned in no later than September 17, 1999.

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Phone No.:

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Last Week's Solution..

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Information Sessions

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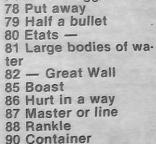
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113 Trig functions

Meet The Master - by Dick Mastroianni...

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62 Carter et al
67 Golf club
69 Tied up
71 Fun or pun follower
72 Paint layer
75 Robot play

75 Robot play
76 Once —— blue
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77 Glutton
78 Gossip's delight
81 Muscat man
82 Pure as the driven

91 Wed in haste
92 Becomes spent
93 Funny Foxx
94 Asner and Sullivan
96 Existence (Latin)
97 Islands (Fr.)
98 Pearl Buck heroine
99 Alaskan metropolis
101 "The Time Machine" people
104 Fawn's mom
106 Popular Latin abbr.
107 Came out on top

83 Lord Byron play

86 Cleans vigorously

89 Fabulous birds

84 Little - Echo

85 Make drunk

"Meet The Master" is a regular feature of The Agawam Advertiser News... Best local news with us, each and every week... * * *

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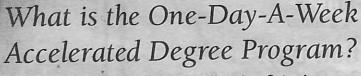
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du Seize the Day, Seize the Dream.

Star-Studded Program To Benefit AIDS Foundation Of Western Mass.

A star-studded "Serendiptty Evening of Music, Song, & Dance" will be presented to benefit the AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts, Inc., on Saturday evening, September 18th, at the Fuller Arts Center on the Springfield College cam-

Sponsored by The Valley Advocate, j ith additional support from the Springfield College departments of visual & performing arts and the rehabilitation & disability studies, this program features world-renowned composer/lyricist Sheldon Harnick (Fiddler On The Roof, She Loves Me, Fiorello, The Rothchilds), Tommy Femia as Judy Garland (hailed as "sensational" at clubs and theatres throughout the United States and Europe), and extraordinary denotes Pavid Boyet Europe), and extraordinary dancers David Bovat and Lisa Carter, who have thrilled audiences with their modern, upbeat dance routines.

The New England Brass Quartet will rock the rafters with Dixieland and ragtime especially chosen for this show. The exciting Latino musical troupe, Los Plenaros, will be presenting their musical selections

Music director Michael Rheault will conduct a

Music director Michael Rheault will conduct a seven-piece orchestra playing Broadway show and musical selections for the critically acclaimed "Class Act." Be prepared for some mystery "surprises" during this serendipity evening.

The Dewey Hill Wind Ensemble will entertain audience patrons as they enter the Fuller Arts Center, when doors open at 7:30 p.m. The show will begin at 8:00 p.m. Convenient parking facilities are located adjacent to the Arts Center.

Tickets purchased in advance are \$24.50; at the door, \$30. Special donation categories have been

door, \$30. Special donation categories have been established as follows: benefactor, \$250 (includes two reserved seats); sponsors, \$100; angels, \$75; and friends, \$50.

All proceeds will support daily operating expenses for the AIDS Foundation. For further information and reservations, call the Foundation at



Riverside Park is looking to scare up the most talented entertainers in Western Massachusetts for its new Halloween attraction, FrightFest.

New productions like Brutal Planet and the Trail of Terror call for more than 60 dozen actors, actresses, and dancers. Rehearsals begin in late September and productions take place weekends

"We're hiring more performers this year than ever before," says Jerry Gretzinger, Public Relations Manager. "We are putting together one of the largest Halloween attractions in the Northeast and need the most talented people we can

The jobs available range from actors, actresses, and dancers to technical support staff who will work behind the scenes. Each of the positions available for FrightFest pay generous

Auditions will take place at the Riverside Human Resources Center directly across from Riverside Park at 1756 Main Street. Audition times

Friday, September 10th: Actors/Actresses, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.; Dancers, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 11th: Actors/Actresses, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.; Dancers, 5:00 p.m.
For more information, contact the Riverside Entertainment Office at (413) 786-9300, ext. 3322.

Riverside Park is owned by Six Flags Theme Parks, part of Premier Parks Inc., the world's largest regional theme park company with a total of 33 parks in the United States, Latin American, and Europe. Six Flags parks serve 16 of the 25 largest metropolitan areas in the United States.

The parks annually host nearly 40-million guests worldwide. Premier Parks is a publicly-held corporation with corporate offices in New York and Oklahoma City.

The company's stock trades on the NYSE under the symbol: PKS.

All the local news with us...

Please remember that our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter ... AAN!!!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!

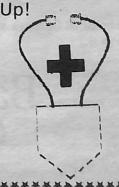
Shooting Star Dance Center 297 Springfield Street Agawam

Convenient Registration Day!

Sunday, September 12th, 12-2 Or Call (413) 786-0660.

We Have The Best Preschool Program Around! Bring In This Ad And Try Your First Class Before You Sign Up!

Our Staff Is Certified By The American Red Cross And Community First Aid Safety!! We Offer A Fun And Safe Environment For Your Child.





DANCERS DAVID BOVAT AND LISA CARTER, who will be performing in September 18th's "Serendipity Evening of Music, Song, & Dance" at the Fuller Arts Center at Springfield College.

For photo coverage in The AAN, please call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice prior to your event...

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Health New England Discount
Tufts - Secure Horizons - Blue Care 65

DEMAND VARILLY LEXSES



AHS Hires Library/ Media Specialist

by Kathy Cassanelli **News Editor**

In her first few days on the job, the new library/ media specialist hired to bring the Agawam High School library up to accreditation standards spent a good deal of her time weeding — as in pulling out the outdated and tattered books cluttering the

library shelves and collecting dust.
"A lot of the collection is as old as I am, and we're going to have to spend a lot of time

weeding," Jennifer Ellis said.

After weeding through the paperback shelves, Ms. Ellis found only enough usable books to fill two of the original 12 shelves of books. The rest weren't worth keeping - who wants to pick up a book that is falling apart and dusty? And that's just the paperbacks.

"My job is to make sure the kids have the type of information they need to be academically successful," Ms. Ellis said. "I have to keep in mind how the collection in the library relates to the cur-

The new librarian considers her job the best job in the school building because she can work with the kids and get to know them in a different way than their teachers can. And there's no grading of students to deal with.

Dispelling a common myth about librarians (that they must have read all the books in the library), Ms. Ellis said her job is not knowing the contents of every book, but knowing where to

locate specific information.

'I like to hand over the materials I'm asked for within 24 hours, and if I can't find it, I try to provide some other way for the students to get what they need. It's fun and I get to touch on a lot of topics,

Ms. Ellis said.

After less than a week on the job, Ms. Ellis is looking at the age of the collection, which ideally should not have anything older than five years in the health, science, and computer fields, and she's making plans for physically rearranging the library. The bookcases should be lower in order for the librarian to see what is going on in the library; the circulation desk should be more centrally located; five computer work stations need to be relocated next to the circulation desk; and a

small computer lab needs to be relocated.
In redesigning the library, Ms. Ellis will rely on library assistant Cele Daigneau, who moved to the High School after serving for 12 years as the library assistant at the Junior High.

"Both Cele and I have very high standards of what a library should be," Ms. Ellis said. "We are reworking the entire space to use every inch to the max.

The Largest Budget She's Ever Had... With \$30,000 in her book budget, the new librarian will have the largest budget she's ever had to work with. "Here I know I can not only get to the surface of the lake, I can get in a float and float away. The \$30,000 is just the beginning. There is no way to know how much we will have to spend at the library until we get further into it."

Ms. Ellis said she feels lucky to be working in a school that appreciates what a library can do for the school and in a community that realizes the importance of a good school library.



JENNIFER ELLIS, Agawam High's new library/media specialist. Advertiser News photo by Kathy

"A good school appreciates the library as the heart of the school, as a very important appendage of the school. The library should be integral to the school," Ms. Ellis said.

Besides updating the library's collection, rearranging the physical quarters, and making computers more accessible to the students, Ms. Ellis counts air conditioning and a security system among her criteria for an ideal school library.

"I run a tight ship and if the kids are here, they're here to work," Ms. Ellis said. "I don't consider a library as somewhere they can be social. I run it like a classroom. As long as they're doing their work, I don't mind a little talking, but I don't let the talking become a gaggle of geese. I won't have a noise level that is not conducive to a

In addition to taking on the job of bringing the library up to the standards outlined in the accreditation report, Ms. Ellis has taken on the job of coaching the girls' junior varsity volleyball

Please remember to patronize your local businesses... AAN!!!

Check our classifieds...

Agawam Adult Education

760 Cooper Street Agawam, MA 01001 Telephone 821-0527 or 821-0522 Director - Paul C. Cavallo

Registration for the fall semester of the Agawam Adult Education program will be held on Monday evening, September 13th, and Wednesday evening, September 15th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Agawam High School Guidance Office. Classes will begin on Monday, September 20th, and run for 10 weeks, ending on December 6th

and run for 10 weeks, ending on December 6th. There will be **no school** on the following dates: Monday, October 11, 1999 (Columbus Day); Thursday, November 11, 1999 (Veterans' Day); Monday and Wednesday, November 22 and 24, 1999 (Thanksgiving week).

Notification of school closing: If Agawam schools are closed due to inclement weather, evening school is also closed. Local radio stations will also announce any cancellations. Make-up days for inclement weather will be scheduled during the term.

The tuition charge is \$75 per course and is payable at the time of registration. No refunds will be given after the second class meeting. Tuition will be refunded if there is an insufficient number of students registered for a course(s). The administration reserves the right to cancel course(s) for lack of registration.

The following is a list of the courses and the

nights they are being offered this semester:

Monday Classes: English 11, English 12,
General Science, World History, Geometry,
Algebra I, Algebra II, EXCEL, and Windows 95 (PowerPoint and Access).

Wednesday Classes: English 9, English 10, U.S. History, Chemistry, General Math, Computer Concepts, Microsoft WORD 97, Oil Painting, and

"Back-To-School" Night At AHS On Wed., Sept. 15th

Agawam High School will be having a "Back-To-School Night" on Wednesday, September

15th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

A presentation will take place in the cafeteria and will be followed by classroom visitations. All parents or guardians are urged to attend.

Those attending are to bring a copy of their child's

ADVERTISER NEWS





A Student At Quinnipiac College...

Dan Houle Completes An Internship At The Food Network

Dan A. Houle of Feeding Hills, a senior mass communications student at Quinnipiac College, recently completed a 10-week internship at The

Food Network in New York City.
In his position, Houle worked in the tape library, logged commercials, handled traffic coordination, and served on the production crews on "Cooking Live with Sara Moultan" and "Cooking Live Primetime."

He also worked on a production crew that went on location to New Jersey to tape "Hot Off the Grill with Bobby Flay," and another crew that filmed food historian Jessica Harris in Brooklyn.

"Merely being this close to a production, I have learned so much," Houle said. "Even when I'm not doing anything in particular, I would observe in detail what each member of a crew is responsible for. I wasn't much of a cook before coming here. I could cook spaghetti, yet one can't help but to pick up a few cooking skills from around the chefs. This has been a great internship experience."

"Internships have been part of the mass communications program at Quinnipiac since its inception," said Grace Levine, a mass communications professor who coordinates Quinnipiac's in-

ternship program.

Designed to encourage students to apply what they have learned at the college in field settings, internships allow students to explore career goals, develop employment skills, and establish links to chosen areas of interests.

goals, develop employment skills, and establish links to chosen areas of interests.

Quinnipiac lists more than 500 placements in the broadcast, film, and print media, in the cable television and sound recording industries, as well as in various video production, advertising, public relations, and multimedia operations.

Houle, the son of Alfred and Joyce Houle of Feeding Hills, also is the co-president of QC-TV, Quinnipiac's campus television station.

Quinnipiac College is a private, coeducational, non-sectarian institution 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The college has 250 full-time faculty and enrolls nearly 4,000 full-time undergraduate and 2,000 graduate students in more than 50 undergraduate and 13 graduate programs of study in Business, Health Sciences, Law, Liberal Arts, Education, and Communications.

Quinnipiac consistently ranks among the top northern regional universities in US News and World Report's America's Best Colleges.

Pack 85 Schedules Sign-Ups For Friday, Sept. 17th

Cub Scout Pack 85 of Agawam United Methodist Church has been going strong for 12 years now. This September, it will begin its 13th season. Many former members have gone on into Boy Scouting, and some of them have become Eagle Scouts.

Pack 85 has been very active over the years. They have attended counsel campouts and campouts they have planned on their own. They have attended museums and joined in on camp-ins at the Springfield Science Museum.

They have toured the local police stations, the local fire stations, supermarkets, manufacturing facilities, television stations, and libraries. One of their most exciting tours was a U.S. military Air Force Base in which the scouts had the opportunity to sit in a flight simulator, see the war planes, and go to a commercial airport and visit the air traffic control tower.

The pack has attended basketball, hockey, and professional baseball games. Dinners have been held for scouts and their families.

Each year, the pack holds a pinewood derby race with cars they make themselves from a kit. The winners go on to meet winners of other packs.

In 1994, a Pack 85 scout won the district event and brought home a trophy too big for him to lift himself. One den held a rain gutter regatta race with boats the boys built themselves. Arts and crafts hikes, and field trips have all been a part of

Cub Scouting is both fun and educational, and a great thing for boys to belong to. In Pack 85, we

make learning fun.

On Friday, September 17th, Pack 85 will be holding formal sign-ups from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Agawam United Methodist Church. Feel free to come in and talk to us on how your son can be a part of all this, or call Cheryl at 786-5664 or Maureen at 786-1541.

The fun begins as soon as you do.

check our classifieds



DAN HOULE OF FEEDING HILLS, a senior mass communications student at Quinnipiac College, during his internship at The Food Network in New York City.



"Is Summer Vacation Really Over???"



MRS. TOUSSAINT (lower left) hands out name tags to kindergarten students on their first day of school (Thursday, September 2nd) at Granger Elementary School. Standing are Mrs. Conway with son Jacob, and Mrs. Liusto with son Lucas. Mrs Conway and Mrs. Liusto were the classroom volunteers for the day. Advertiser News photo by Kathy



GRANGER SCHOOL STUDENTS look forward to the 1999-2000 school year on the first day of school. Front row: Caroline Lewis, Evan Speak, and Andrew DeChristopher. Back row: Chelsea Blanchard, Mike Mesick, and David Comee. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



CROSSING GUARDS LYNNE HENRY AND RITA CLARK get ready to help students from Robinson Park School to cross the street on the first day of school. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Agawam Junior High Slates Annual "Back-To-School" Night

Agawam Junior High School Principal Kevin C. Littlefield has announced that a "Back-To-School" Night will be conducted for parents on Monday, September 13th, from 6:30 to

Parents are advised to meet in the school auditorium at 6:30 p.m., where the evening's format will be explained and directions will be given to homerooms. At 7:00 p.m., parents of seventhand eighth-grade students will follow their child's daily schedule and meet with subject teachers in a classroom setting.

Littlefield suggests that parents bring their child's agenda/planner with them to "Back-To-School" Night, since its usage will be reviewed and it contains their child's daily class schedule.

He explains that teacher presentations will highlight exactly what students have been told during their first class meetings. Included will be course expectations, homework, testing, project work, discipline, and attendance.

Littlefield points out that the brief meeting time will not allow parents to discuss personal aspects of their child's education with teachers. Conference nights for that purpose have been scheduled in the near future.

Best local news!!!

Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, September 13th: Oven-baked chicken nuggets, steamed rice, seasoned diced carrots, dipping sauce, rosy applesauce, milk.

Tuesday, September 14th: Teriyaki rib dippers, potato rounds with catsup, mixed vegetables, bread and butter, chocolate pudding with topping or pineapple tidbits, milk.

Wednesday, September 15th: Rotini with spaghetti sauce, seasoned broccoli cuts, Italian bread and butter, chilled peaches in syrup or Jello with topping, milk.

Thursday, September 16th: Grilled cheese sandwich, oven potato wedges, catsup, tossed garden salad with dressing, dessert, milk.

Friday, September 17th: Scrambled hamburg with gravy on whipped potatoes, whole wheat bread and butter, sweet niblet corn, fruit cup or chocolate brownie, milk.

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West Side Aquatic Club Ends Summer Season, **Slates Swim Lessons**

The West Side Aquatic Club completed its 1999 summer season in grand fashion. Swimmers broke Bay State game records, Park and Recreation league records, and competed against the best of the best at Junior Nationals.

"This was an outstanding year for this organization. We have really come a long way in becoming a swimming powerhouse in this area for years to come." stated Head Coach David Dembowitz. "We have set our goals very high and the kids are really starting to believe that they can achieve anything they put their minds to. I can not tell you how proud I am of this team. We are on the verge of something really special."

Among the swimmers who shined this summer were the following athletes from Agawam:

Patti Olson competed in three events at Junior Nationals, where she had two personal bests. Patti also broke the Bay State Games' 12 year-old record in the mile; Joe Santinello placed in the 500 freestyle at age groups; Adam Rhodes had personal bests in both the 100 back and 100 free in Dover; and Anthony Ardolino placed 15th in the 50 breaststroke at age groups, while his brother, Andrew ("Scooter"), placed ninth in the eight and

under age group.

The Tsunamis are starting to become a very competitive swim team. However, the team has a

different approach than most teams

Coach Dembowitz explained, "We try to get every kind of athlete involved in swimming, and our goal is to swim fast and have fun. I have some tremendous athletes and I have some people who strive to become tremendous athletes. There is a place on this team for both kinds of swimmers.'

He continued, "This team is trying to show people that there is more to competitive swimming. I want my swimmers to have fun; if they are not having fun, then why are they competing at all? We train very hard. However, there is a safe, comfortable atmosphere that both the kids and the parents enjoy. I would not want it any other way.

The Tsunamis are beginning swimming lessons to encourage younger athletes to become swimmers. Lessons are once a week for one hour. After completing these lessons, the swimmer will have a greater understanding of swimming, and how to prevent accidents.

If anyone is interested in the Tsunamis or is interested in swimming lessons, please call Head Coach David Dembowitz at (413) 781-9316, or take a look at their web page at www.westside tsunamis.com.

The Tsunamis will be holding their annual informational meeting on Thursday, September 16th, at 7:00 p.m. at the municipal office building in West Springfield. Please call David Dembowitz at the aforementioned number for details and direc-

– ADVERTISER NEWS —

Amy Jennifer Bressem Named To Brevard College's Honor Roll

Dr. Robert Bauslaugh, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty at Brevard College, has announced that 89 students were named to Brevard's Honor Roll for the spring

Among those named was Amy Jennifer Bressem, daughter of Ms. Joyce Matthew Bressem-

Granger of Feeding Hills.

"They are definite academic success stories," said Dr. Bauslaugh. "These students, who come from all types of high schools and have had different levels of success in their past educational endeavors, represent the finest students in the nation. I am pleased with the number of students who did make the Honor Roll, particularly in view of the demanding curriculum at Brevard College."

To make the Honor Roll, a student must compete at least 12 hours of credit, score between a 3.0 and 3.5 grade point average, and have no grade

Affiliated with the United Methodist Church, Brevard College is a residential liberal arts college located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North

Brevard College currently offers a wide variety of baccalaureate degree programs, including music, art, environmental studies, organizational leadership, wilderness education and experiential education, exercise science, history, and mathematics.

Cub Scout Pack 77 To Hold Sign-Ups On September 16th

Lions and Tigers and Bears! Well, there aren't any lions, but we do have Tigers, Bobcats, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos.

St. John's Cub Scout Pack 77 is holding its sign-up night on Thursday, September 16th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the church hall Poys in grades one through five are invited to stop by and find out what scouting is all about.

Adults will be on hand to answer your questions and explain about our year-round program. Scouts will also be present with den flags, photos, and

various projects.

Starting with our first Pack meeting this month (September 29th), our monthly Pack meetings gather the Dens together for awards, skits, and displays of Den activities. During the year, the Pack is also involved in overnight camping, Yukon Derby, Tiger Quest, popcorn sale, Pinewood Derby, Blue and Gold Banquet, Falcon hockey games, and Scout Camp (to name a few).

If you are interested in joining Cub Scouts, then mark your calendar for Thursday. September 16th. We also welcome adults to take active roles

within the Pack.

The boys are always ready to go, but need adults to keep the program rolling. The more adults involved, the stronger our Pack grows.

For any questions before September 16th, please call Bob at 786-0749, Cathy at 786-5103, or Marcia at 786-3666

Alfred Albano Of Feeding Hills Wins Junior Year Prize At Hamilton College

Alfred Albano, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Albano of Robin Ridge Drive in Feeding Hills, was named the recipient of the James L. Bennett Prize at Hamilton College's annual convocation held on Sunday, August 29th.

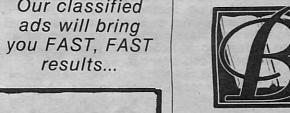
Established by Emma M. Bennett Elsing in memory of James L. Bennett, Class of 1871, the prize is awarded to a senior who has completed the junior year with distinction.

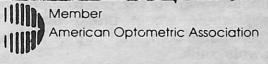
A senior majoring in chemistry at Hamilton, Albano is a graduate of Agawam High School.

Hamilton College is a highly selective residential college offering its 1,650 students a rigorous liberal arts curriculum. Students are challenged to think, write and speak critically, creatively, and analytically, so that upon graduation they may distinguish themselves in both their professions and their communities.

For photo coverage in The AAN, please call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice prior to your event...

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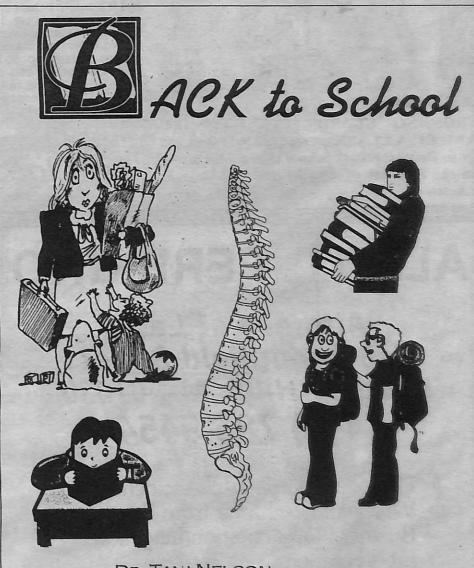
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Good Luck, Agawam High Fall Sports 1999

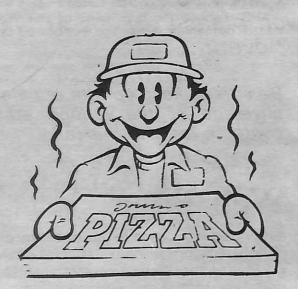
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A Look At Three Of AHS's Fall Sports Teams...

New Coach Hopes Impressive Lineup To Bring Boys' In Store For Soccer To Playoffs The Golf Team

by Dave Rollins Sports Editor

Agawam High boys' soccer has a new coach -Glenn Olson. He is prepared to lead the team into the next century. He thinks he has the horses to do it. "I have seen them in the pre-season come together. This program is possibly as good as it

He looked down his roster, which is finalized now. They lost 10 kids. But the ones coming back are blue chippers. They are led by senior Barry Ward, who is a good bet to make All-Western Mass. "Barry it totally focused. He has always been that way. He'll be a big factor in the midfield," the coach said.

Also back is Brian Lopes, one of the region's most dangerous scoring threats on the front line. Tenacious and plenty of skill best describe one of 1998's most potent scorers for AHS.

Ward and Lopes will have some important help. "We have Jack Pearson, a senior, Dan Marsilli, a junior up from junior varsity, Joe DiVirgilio, a mid-field junior, Wes Scott, Mike Thomas, as well as our captain, Matt Quirk, who will run defense." Then the coached mentioned the keepers.

"That group will be led by John DeCaro, who will be a junior. He'll be backed up by another good one - Derek Mercadante, a senior. Unfortunately, Derek has a shoulder injury he suffered during

baseball, so it is day-to-day for him."

Then the coach added, "We'll be able to score and play defense. We are a very new team than what we were before. I'm taking over from a very good coach (Dwight Northrup, who retired after six years at the helm). We open Thursday, September 9th against Amherst. There are some in our division (the Smith) including great teams in our division (the Smith), including Ludlow and Longmeadow, plus East Longmeadow. Then there is Minnechaug over in the Churchill-Moriarty. You can also throw Cathedral, another Smith Division team, into the

Olson, who is an integrated teacher at the High School focusing on science, had this final comment: "I think this season, you are going to see some of the best high school boys' soccer you have ever seen in Western Massachusetts.'

AHS missed the playoffs a year ago. And you can bank on it that one of the team's primary goals is to return to the post-season dance in by Dave Rollins Sports Editor

The Agawam High golf team is trying to remain

in the Western Mass. spotlight.

Long-time Coach Paul Bachini of the two-time Western Mass. champions, thinks he has the kids to do it again. He lost All-Western Mass. star Chris Rousseau to graduation. But now it will be quantity - kids who can put scores together to offset the big loss

"We had 28 kids come out for golf. We kept 17. It was tough cutting kids. But we had to do it," he

said.
"Here's the way we'll play this year. We'll make sure to keep the ball in the fairway. Our kids aren't long hitters like Rousseau was. But I can see how accurate they are. I like the way they all tried out. Every one of them that made the cut played their way into the lineup. That has to impress a coach."

Bachini has some blue chippers in that lineup. He starts out with junior Andy Green, who finished in the top 10 in last fall's 1998 Western Mass. tournament at the Springfield Country Club.

"Andy is a force. He'll be right there in the tour-nament as probably our number one player. Then there is senior Shawn Biebel, and sophomore Bill Menard. Those two, along with Green, make up our top three. I think they can match up against anyone in Western Mass.

There are more kids fighting for the other three spots. "I can tell you that Kacy Progulske, a junior, Jason Rosenberg, a senior, Bob Woods, another senior, sophomore Adam D'Amario, and sophomore Tom Montagna are in the running for these spots," said Bachini.

The team plays at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course. It has been friendly over the years to the Agawam High golf team. "This course is tight and difficult for everyone who plays there. I think that's what makes us good, because we can play it to the best of our ability. As I said, the premium is on accuracy," Bachini pointed out.

High Confidence Level "We will challenge for the league title again. Our confidence level is so high. We practice hard and play hard. The big challenges will come against East Longmeadow, South Hadley, and Minnechaug. And you can throw in Ludlow. They are all great teams that bring out the best in their competition," added Bachini.

Girls' Soccer Is Motivated For '99 Season

by Dave Rollins Sports Editor

Agawam High girls' soccer has a new coach. For the past three weeks, Laura Wray has been looking at the talent. "We lost some seniors. But we have so many kids back, including 12 seniors and eight juniors. Experience will be our strength.'

She went down the list. "You have to start with senior sweeper Sheri Benton (2nd team All-Western Mass. varsity squad). She is our main defender. Then there is Amy Jensen, a junior. She will be up front. Jen Lyman, a senior, is another standout. Jen can play both midfield and attack. Gina Loudfoot can play you all day long. She

never quits. Gina is a force on the wing."

The coach went on, mentioning two sophomores. Amanda Blair is a fullback and is still learning. But she will be a force. Desiree Marsilli is a forward who has a great sense of the net and how to score," said Wray.

The key keeper will be Laura Bucalo, a junior. "She won some big games last year. She can only get better," Wray noted.

"We also have such a strong bench. We'll have kids going into our games from there. That can only help us,"- Wray added. After that, there was more. "Our coaching staff is second to none. We have Rob Libera as my assistant. Lynda Kunasek is our excellent junior varsity coach. Jamie Lessard is our freshman coach."

Excited About The Opportunity About taking over for Coach Mary Murray, Wray had this to say: "I feel very excited about this opportunity. I can't replace Coach Murray. But I will style this program in my own vision of what I think it should be. We have a great amount of talent. And they are motivated. It will be a good year for Agawam girls' soccer.

AHS reached the first round of the Western Mass. Tournament a year ago, but bowed to Central High.

Be sure to keep up with our weekly coverage of the various athletic contests for AHS this fall...

Rollins Announces His Own Web Page

"Write to me at daverollinssports @ yahoo.com.," encourages AAN Sports Editor Dave Rollins. "The High School fall sports season is starting in Western Mass., as well as in New England and around the country. Let's talk about the blue chippers in our part of Massachusetts — how do you think they're going to do?

"And, as the season progresses, we'll talk about their performances and possible possibilities for further glory in college. Maybe we can get some scouts interested in them.

"Because, as we've all noticed, most of the kids seem to be from Florida, Texas, other southern states, the midwest, and out west. There have to be some outstan-

Best of luck to all of the Brownies! * * *

ding ones right here in our back yard worthy of recognition on a national scale.

"Please feel free to submit precise and updated statistics whenever you can, because I'll have mine and we can compare notes," concluded Rollins.

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Girls' Volley Preview ...

Coach Demers Looks Forward To Team's Second Season

by Dave Rollins **Sports Editor**

It's the second time around for girls' volleyball

at Agawam High School.

Last season, they came in with a 4-11 record. This year, they'll probably be up against it again. "We fought hard last year, our initial season. We have one senior, two freshmen, four sophomores, and five juniors for this team. It will be a rebuilding year. Three of the 12 we have were varsity starters a year ago," said returning Coach Pat

Demers, a very positive person, looked down the roster. "We had 40 kids come out. Cutting the ones who couldn't make it was hard. We tried to tell them that they shouldn't give up the game -that their time could well come.

"Our two captains, Kara Barnes (a junior) and Erin Corbin (a sophomore), will lead us. They will be helped by sophomore Amanda Brown and a senior exchange student (from Italy), Elena Cat-

toni.
"Some of the kids have gone to summer camp to learn how to play the game better, especially Brown and Corbin," Demers added.
"All of the kids who are back are smarter about

the game from their experience. That will make a difference for us," Demers said.



Golf Tip Of The Week... Compiled by Jim Modzelesky, PGA
Oak Ridge Golf Club,
Feeding Hills, MA

The One-Shot Wonder...

Take some time at the start of the year to practice only with a 5- or a 6-iron. But don't practice 5-or 6-iron shots. Practice as many different kinds of shots as you can hit with the club.

Apart from learning the principles of all golf shots — how to hook, how to fade — you will learn new shots. The 5-iron and the 6-iron, you see, are two of the most versatile in the bag. They're lofted enough to hit from sand or rough, or similar lies, and still give you good distance.

That is why you find yourself going to them often during a round, and the more you go to

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In Girls' U-11 PVSL Action...

"Twisters" Defeat Wilbraham **And Shine At Riverside Classics**

The girls' under-11 Twisters of the Pioneer Valley Soccer League notched their second victory of the season on Thursday, September 2nd, with a 3-2 win over Wilbraham at Smith & Wesson Field in Springfield. Cassie Ashwell scored two goals and assisted on another score by Brittany

During Labor Day weekend, the Twisters competed in the 15th Annual Riverside Soccer Classic Tournament held in Agawam. On Saturday, September 4th, the girls exhibted a tenacious defense and posted two victories, each won by a score of 2-0.

In the first game, the Twisters defeated the MISL Flames of North Andover, MA. The first goal was scored by Cassie Ashwell, with an assist by Stephanie Obue, and the second goal was scored by Erin Theriault, with assists by Laura Lyons and Christina Bertrand.

In the second game, Christina Bertrand supplied the scoring attack to defeat the Nashua (NH) Shock Wave, as she scored two solid goals, with an assist each by Heather Coache and Laura Lyons.

Sunday's action (September 5th) featured two hard-fought games against two very tough opponents. In the first game, the Twisters played the East Longmeadow Rage to a 2-2 tie, with an unassisted goal by Stephanie Obue and another goal by Cassie Ashwell, assisted by Megan Lalli. In the second game, the Twisters battled valiantly but were defeated by a superb team, the Berlin (CT) Blitz, last year's state champs in their division.

The team's fine play earned them a spot in the tournament championship round on Labor Day (Monday, September 6th). The semi-final action saw the Twisters once again playing Berlin for a chance at the finals.

Playing an early-morning game in a torrential downpour didn't dampen the spirit and determination of this tough Twisters team, as they fought hard but lost to the Blitz by a score of 3-1, with Stephanie Obue scoring the Ione Twisters goal.

In the consolation game, the Twisters lost 3-2 to East Longmeadow, with the goals scored by Christina Bertrand and Kaitlin Outhuse, each with an assist by Cassie Ashwell.

Hats off to the entire Twisters team for their inspired play during the Riverside Classic, playing tough competition in a tough tournament to earn fourth-place trophies in the championship round. The girls showed grit, determination, teamwork, and a tremendous amount of poise as they become even stronger during this young fall soccer season — way to go, Twisters!

Agawam Athletic Association Schedules Final Sign-Ups For Winter Basketball

The Agawam Athletic Association has slated final sign-ups for the 1999-2000 Suburban and CYO Basketball Season for Tuesday, September 14th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., at the Junior High

Try-outs for the 7th/8th grade A & B Suburban and CYO girls' teams will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Junior High Gym on September 14th. Any 7th or 8th grade girl who has yet to sign-up and who plans to try-out should report to the gym no later than 6:45 p.m. with a parent to fill-out the sign-up sheet and then proceed into the gym for

Those youngsters who missed the September 7th sign-up can still do so for the 3rd/4th grade

boys' and girls' CYO teams, 5th/6th grade boys' and girls' Suburban & CYO teams, and 7th/8th grade boys' Suburban & CYO teams on the evening of September 14th, again, between 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. at the Junior High Gym.

Try-outs for these age groups will be announced shortly. Try-outs are only open to coaches and

For more information about the AAA, now celebrating its 25th anniversary serving the youth of Agawam, please call President Bob Hersey at 786-2979 (weekdays, between noon and 4:00 p.m.), or Boys' Coordinator Paul Federico at 786-8948 (evenings).

For photo coverage in The AAN, please call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice prior to your event...



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At The Vets' Council Golf Tournament...





ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 21ST, the Agawam Veterans' Council held its annual Golf Tournament at the St. Anne Country Club in Feeding Hills. Despite the less-than-sunny conditions (in other words, the weather was downright soggy), area golfers braved the elements and participated in this worthwhile event, which managed to raise \$2,000 for the town's Honor Roll on Veterans' Green. IN LEFT PHOTO: Al Peckham, Priscilla Peterson, Ellie Boissonneault, Peg Brown, Diane Gagnon, Andy Jay, and John Brown. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Ron Hamel, Dave Pisano, Dick Pisano, and Karl Schmaelzle. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

For photo coverage in The AAN, please call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137.



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SOME OF THE INDIVIDUALS who were instrumental in organizing the Agawam Veterans' Council Golf Tournament on Saturday, August 21st (from left to right): George Schlagel (Vets' Council), Agawam Veterans' Agent Ruth Bitzas, Dianne Moreau, Chris Sanchez, and Harvey Gagnon (Community Volunteer). Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Spfld. Turnverein Announces Two More Gymnastics Sign-Ups

Remaining sign-ups for the STV Gymnastics program will be held September 14th and 16th. Sign-ups are at the Springfield Turnverein, 176 Garden Street, Feeding Hills.

Coaches will be available at sign-ups to explain the program to newcomers. We offer classes to ages four and up and also have competitive teams for boys and girls.

For more information, call Jessica Hansen at 786-6660 or the Springfield Turnverein at 786-0924.

For photo coverage in The AAN, please call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice prior to your event. Thanks.

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Fishing Tournament In Honor Of Stephen J. Cass

On March 29, 1998, 21 year-old Stephen Jonathon Cass of Westfield died from a brain injury. In honor of Stephen and his love of fishing, a fishing tournament will be held on Sunday, September 12th, beginning at 7:00 a.m. at Congamond Lakes in Southwick. All proceeds from the tournament will be donated to the Aitken Neuroscience Center in New York. This non-profit agency is committed to brain injury research, brain death, and education.

Entry fee for the tournament is \$100 per team of two people and pre-registration is not required. There is a bass six-fish limit per team. One thousand dollars will be awarded to the first-place winner and six other cash prizes will be awarded.

The tournament is sponsored by the Stephen Jonathon Cass Memorial Committee. For more information or registration forms, contact Jodi Lee Potts at 413-562-5771 or Barbara Robitalle at 413-568-7127.

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Feeding Hills Youths To Participate In 4-H Beef Show At Big E

Several local youths will participate in one of Eastern States Exposition's prestigious 4-H shows held during The Big E in West Springfield. They have entered Polled Hereford steers for

They have entered Polled Hereford steers for show and competition in the 1999 New England 4-H Beef Show, which will take place September 24th-27th.

Derrick Turnbull, 17, and Katie Turnbull, 16, of Autumn Mist Farm in Feeding Hills have each entered two steers.

The 78th edition of The Big E will be held September 17th-October 3rd. During its 17-day run, 500 youngsters from New England will exhibit more than 1,000 animals in 4-H and youth livestock programs, competing for ribbons, awards, and cash prizes.

As one of the largest agricultural shows in the East, The Big E's open livestock shows draw an additional 5,000 entries from the U.S. and Canada. The fair's 4-H/FFA Day is Saturday, September 18th. Massachusetts Day is Thursday, September 23rd

The White House Replica, brought to you by Sears, is the fair's premier exhibit of 1999. Authentic to the tiniest detail, the 60-ft. by 20-ft. rendition of the First Family's residence is an elaborate marvel created by the "King of Miniatures," John Zweifel. Complete with Rose Garden and South Portico entryway, The White House Replica has appeared in Europe and Japan, at the Reagan and Kennedy Libraries, and at the Smithsonian Institution.

Three weekends of world-class acts on the Mohegan Sun Stage highlight a fabulous free entertainment lineup. Music stars include Chris Ledoux (Sept. 17th), Monica (Sept. 18th), Jo Dee Messina (Sept. 19th), Johnny Rivers (Sept. 25th), and Deana Carter (Sept. 26th). On the final weekend, the Big Bad Voodoo Daddy swing band (Oct. 2nd) and Trisha Yearwood (Oct. 3rd) will bring a memorable close to the fair.

ing a memorable close to the fair.

The majesty and power of heavy horse teams will reign Sept. 30th-Oct. 3rd at The Big E Draft Horse Show, featuring the North American Six-Horse Hitch Classic Series 1999 Championship Finals. Also in the Coliseum and sponsored by Budweiser is the fabled Eastern States Exposition Horse Show (Sept. 16th-19th). Horse Pulling (Sept. 27th) and Oxen Pulling (Sept. 28th-29th) will conclude with the Canadian-USA Ox Haul Challenge. The Two Hemispheres Wagon, pulled by the immense 16-horse Belgian Hitch, sponsored by Discover Platinum Card, will appear daily in The Big E Grande Parade, sponsored by Stop & Shop.

Everyone enters The Big E on Opening Day for \$6. Thereafter, adult admission is just \$10, children six-12 enter for \$6, and tots five and under enter free. The new Value Pass gives unlimited admission on all 17 days for just \$24.95 for adults and \$14.95 for children six-12.

After 5:00 p.m. (Mon. through Thurs.), admission is \$8. Two Day Passes are \$16. Admission on two special days (Sept. 21st and 28th) is \$8 for seniors

After 5:00 p.m. (Mon. through Thurs.), admission is \$8. Two Day Passes are \$16. Admission on two special days (Sept. 21st and 28th) is \$8 for seniors and AARP members. Tuesdays after 5:00 p.m. are McDonald's Fun Nights, with gate admission and ride all rides for \$15 with McDonald's coupon. For more facts, call (413) 737-2443 or visit online at www.thebige.com.

On Saturday, September 4th...

Ricky Miller Wins Final NASCAR Featherlite Modified At Riverside

Strojny And Sabia Take Down First Career Wins

In the final appearance of the NASCAR Featherlite Modified Series at Riverside Park Speedway, local talent Ricky Miller showed up the rest of the series regulars with a win in the Sunoco/Featherlite Trailers 200 on Saturday, September 4th.

Mike Ewanitsko of North Babylon, NY, was second, and Ted Riggott of East Hartland, CT, was third. Points leader Tony Hirschman and Rick Fuller rounded out the top five.

In the Teddy Bear Pools Pro Stock division, Tim Strojny of Southampton, MA, took down his first-ever career victory, and Pat Kretschman of Shelton, CT, took down his fourth victory of the year in the Teddy Bear Pools Truck division. In the Sportsman division, 16 year-old Mike Sabia, Jr. of Easton, CT, collected his first career checkers.

A near-sellout crowd witnessed a race in which only four caution periods during the Sunoco Race Fuels/Featherlite Trailers 200 made for one of the fastest NASCAR Modified Series events in recent memory. The average speed for the race was 51.709 mph, with two exciting lead changes between Bud Pole Award winner Bob Polverari, Gatorade Front-Runner Award winner Reggie Ruggiero, and Miller. Of the \$65,170 purse for the event, Miller took home the lion's share with a \$5,325 payday.

Ruggiero held the lead from lap 62 until lap 127, when Miller was able to show Ruggiero that the newer generation of Riverside Park Speedway drivers knows how to use the bottom groove, also. Miller quickly put distance between himself and Ruggiero, but the racing wasn't done. Ewanitsko got up to Miller's left tire and looked like he'd easily take away the win. Miller was able to hold on and at the checkers Ewanitsko had to settle for second.

In the Teddy Bear Pools Pro Stock division, an excited Tim Strojny expressed his emotions to the media and fans afterwards:

"All I wanted to do was win a race at Riverside Park Speedway. I finally did it with only two races left. Talk about taking it to the wire."

Strojny took the lead on the first lap and had to hold off three-time champion Eddy Carroll III for his first-ever career victory. Barry Gray was third, followed by Todd Owen and Rich Vasseur. Strojny competed in the Strictly Stock and Late Model

divisions at Riverside Park Speedway before beginning his Pro Stock career in 1998.

The point battle in the Teddy Bear Pools Pro Stocks is heating up, and Carroll is now in position for a record-setting fourth consecutive championship. His second-place finish opened up a 36-point lead over Jeff Connors, 770-734, with Rich Vasseur only two points behind Connors with 732.

From the fifth starting spot on the grid, Truck division standout Pat Kretschman was able to pull into the lead in front of outside pole sitter Ted Chalmers on lap 24. Kretschman wasn't out of the water yet as Chalmers continued to surge back, while hard-charger Brian Merchant pulled up on the leaders and made a run for the lead.

On lap 28, the second caution of the event saw Rob Valerio spin in turn two. This set up a two-lap dash for the checkers. Kretschman was able to easily outdistance Chalmers with Merchant close behind. Ernie Tarca crossed the line fourth, and E.J. Legacy was fifth.

E.J. Legacy was fifth.

Craig Collins tried on the last lap of the 25-lap Sportsman feature to take it away, but 16 year-old Mike Sabia, Jr. of Easton, CT, held on for his first-ever career victory. Dan Sullivan of Springfield had his best finish of the season crossing the line third, followed by Doug Goetz and Keith Carzello.

third, followed by Doug Goetz and Keith Carzello. With his 10th-pole finish, Herb Carlon of Windsor, CT, clinched the 1999 Riverside Park Speedway Sportsman Championship, holding an impressive 78-point lead over nearest competitor Glen Reilly, 704-626.

Next up at Riverside Park Speedway on Saturday, September 11th, is the NASCAR Winston Racing Series Championship Night presented by Budweiser and ACME Auto Supply. Each of Riverside Park Speedway's six NASCAR divisions will close out their championship point standings for the 1999 season.

The closest battle will be in the NAPA Modified division, as Sunoco/Featherlite Trailers 200 winner Miller leads Eddy Spiers by only two points for the track championship. Racing starts at 6:00 p.m.

For more information, call (413) 786-9300 or visit www.riversideparkspeedway.com on the world wide web.

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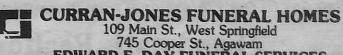
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Outdoors England

by Kent Survis **Outdoor Writer**

Fall Is Almost Here...

You don't need a calendar to know that fall is fast approaching. The leaves are turning yellow and the aquatic weeds are starting to die off. Hunting season is fast approaching and the fall migration of stripers and bluefish will begin shortly. So

many opportunities — so little time!
The fall upland game season is almost upon us and the opening-day excitement is starting to

There is very little that is as satisfying as getting out in the field and woodlands with a good bird dog. Working as a team builds a special bond between dog and owner. The dog's natural instinct to hunt is combined with his desire to please his master. A trained dog is always hunting for the gun, not hunting too far ahead of the

Over the years, I have had English Setters and now a Springer Spaniel. The pointing breeds are more suited to the open fields, where their natural instincts to point and hold game allow them to cover massive amounts of real estate in a short time. The flushing breeds such as Spaniels need to work close to the gun and not stray too far

FISH REPORTS

Congamond Lakes, as well as Hampton Ponds, are churning up some quality large-mouth bass. Curt over at Saunders Livery tells us that buzz baits and spinnerbaits are still taking their share of decent fish. Crank baits of the deep-diving variety are also scoring well. The weed treatment seems to have had some effect on the fishing, but things are returning to normal.

Connecticut River small-mouth action continues unabated. Size 9 Rapalla in silver finish and small plastic worms, along with four-inch Sluggos, have all been producing. The Oxbow section above the Holyoke Dam continues to produce some large-mouth in the three-pound-plus category, along with keeper-sized Northern pike. Plastic worms rigged Texas-style (with the slip sinker pegged with a toothpick) have been hot around the lily pads.

Valley streams continue to suffer low water

valley streams continue to suffer low water conditions, but recent rains may bring the levels and fishing opportunities back to normal. Fall stocking should begin shortly.

SALT WATER

Stripers are everywhere along the coast. Inshore rips have produced some keepers. Parachute jigs worked on wire line have been producing. Anglers tossing top-water plugs to surface feeding fish are scoring during the early-morning and late-evening periods.

Porgies are prevalent in 30 to 50 feet of water at

Bartlett's Reef outside of Niantic, as well as some decent fluke. Clam chunks three-wayed on an incoming and outgoing tide seem to do the trick.

Blue fish action has been spotty, but some jumbos have been taken in the rips off Black Point between Old Lyme and Niantic. Look for tidal rips and fish the up-tide sides of the rip lines. Topwater action on 15- to 18-pound blues can be really exciting.

Riverside Park Speedway's Final Champions To Be Decided On Saturday, September 11th

Miller Leads Spiers By Two Points For Modified Track Championship

Riverside Park Speedway's final track champions will be decided on Saturday, September 11th, the closing weekend for NASCAR Winston Racing Series points throughout the nation. Adding to the drama will be an electrifying 51-lap battle between Agawam's Ricky Miller and Beacon Falls, CT's Eddy Spiers. Miller and Spiers are separated by only two points for the NAPA Modified championship.

"It's interesting, that's for sure," says Miller, who leads Spiers 808-806 in the standings heading into the final points race. "It should be exciting for my crew, Eddy's crew, and the fans who have followed the points race all season."

Despite the implications of September 11th's outcome, Miller says his team's strategy remains the same: "When we go there, we go to win races and let the points take care of themselves. If we don't win, I'll still be happy because we've had a great year and that takes a little of the pressure

For Miller and Spiers, every single position on the race track will count, as the Riverside Park Speedway scoring system awards points in increments of two. Miller, who leads all Modified competitors with four wins on the 1999 season, must finish no worse than one position behind Spiers in order to secure the championship

In the event of a numerical tie, Miller will be awarded the title based on his greater number of feature wins. Miller and Spiers are the only two drivers in contention for the title, as five-time champion Bob Polverari sits mathematically eliminated in third place with 716 points.

"I'ye got nothing to lose," said Spiers. "I have

to rely on luck being on my side." Spiers said he and Miller are closely matched on the track, so whichever driver lady luck favors may be the

"I think the combinations that he and I have put together are really identical, so luck will be a big factor," said Spiers.

Although it is the final season of racing at

Riverside Park, the NAPA Modified championship has more than just sentimental value. The champion will receive \$10,000 from Riverside Park Speedway, division sponsor NAPA, and Winston.

Keenan's Office Has "Westfield River User's Guide"

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan is pleased to share with his constituents a user's guide to the Westfield River. Anyone interested in obtaining a Westfield River User's Guide should contact Rep. Keenan's office at (413) 786-4545.

The guide contains a map of the area, and a list of recreational activities such as cultural events, museums, public parks, and historic and scenic sites along the river. There is also a list of places where camping, canoeing, and bicycling opportunities can be found.

The Westfield River was the first in Massachusetts to be designated "Wild and Scenic" by the National Park Service, and its beauty is shared by the 27 communities within its basin.

In addition, the Modified champion will receive a share of the \$108,500 NASCAR Winston Racing Series regional point fund.

Should Miller prevail as champion, his current second-place standing in the New England region will earn him an additional \$17,000. The NASCAR Winston Racing Series regional champion will earn \$40,200.

The starting grid for September 11th's race was determined by qualifying results from a rained-out event on August 14th, and the field is now set for one of the most anticipated Saturday night features in New England auto racing history. Miller will align his No. 12 Chevrolet in the 16th spot, and Spiers will start his No. 94 machine only one row back in the 17th position. one row back in the 17th position.

Presented by long-time Riverside Park Speedway supporters Budweiser and ACME Auto Supply, Championship Night festivities will begin at 6:00 p.m. Adults tickets are only \$12.99, and children have adult

panied by an adult.

Along with the NAPA Modifieds, the Teddy Bear
Pools Pro Stocks, Super Trucks, Sportsman, Super Stocks, and Figure 8's will wrap up their division championships on September 11th as well. These competitors will return to action during Riverside Park Speedway's "Final Ride" weekend, which is set for October 15th-17th.

The three-day event will include 18 classes of race cars, concluding with the final "tour-type" Modified race on Sunday, October 17th.

For more information, call (413) 786-9300 or join

over 2,200 weekly users online at www.river-sidepark.speedway.com on the world wide web.

More upcoming events:
October 3rd: "Thrills and Spills Series - Budweiser \$5,000 Full-Size Enduro." Plus \$2,500 Four-

Ser \$5,000 Full-Size Enduro." Plus \$2,500 Four-Cylinder Enduro and \$1,000 Demolition Derby.

October 15th-17th: "The Final Ride Race Weekend." Three days of feature events including NASCAR Modifieds, SK Modifieds, Pro Stocks, Outlaw Late Models, Legends, and more.

October 31st: "Championship Awards Banquet." Chez Josef, Agawam, MA.

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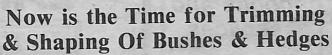
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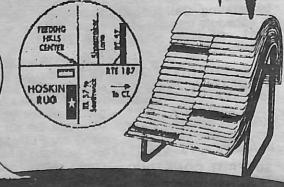
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